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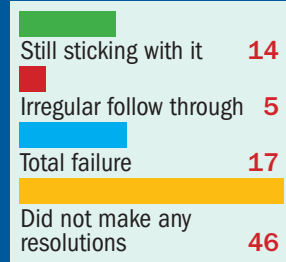
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POLL RESULTS

How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions so far?



Sunday, January 27, 2013

INSIDE

NATION



Democrats may stand in Obama's way on gun measures.

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Fears are growing that Libya is becoming an incubator of turmoil.

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LIFE & STYLE



Matt Damon had his revenge on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

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Fitial appoints Judge Inos to Supreme Court. **PAGE 5**

OIA's Tony Babauta resigns

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta handed in his resignation to President Barack Obama on Jan. 24, thanking him for the opportunity and confidence to hold the post for the past four years. Babauta, a native of Guam, also told Interior Secretary Kenneth Salazar on the same day that he believes his work "improved the Office of Insular Affairs."

» Babauta says he leaves behind an 'improved' OIA
» CNMI, Guam officials highlight Babauta's contributions to islands

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Corruption, felony charges vs Fitial hurdle committee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

All five felony and corruption charges against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial related to the January 2010 unauthorized release of a federal inmate so she could massage the governor in his private residence cleared the Special Investigating

Committee on Impeachment last week. The process inches forward to a full House of Representatives vote that could come as early as next week, followed by an impeachment trial at the Senate.

One Fitial ally, Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (IR-Saipan), repeatedly said Friday that the CNMI

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Pellegrino, Ayuyu are Chamber's 2012 Businessperson of the Year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan Sea Ventures Inc. chief executive officer Anthony Pellegrino and RJ Corp. general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu both bagged on Saturday night the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's coveted 2012 Businessperson of the Year award, marking the first time it has drawn a tie since the recognition started in 1996.

"This is really a dream come true for me. It's an honor for me to be standing here to get this award," Ayuyu, a mother of five, told the audi-

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Pellegrino



Ayuyu

» Key US Navy official touts CNMI role in military expansion, tourism

Rafanan tops inaugural PSS Spelling Bee



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Top 3 spellers pose for a group photo after Saturday's awarding ceremonies. From left are first place winner Ezekiel Rafanan, second placer Michelle Bermudes, and third placer Jenikah Elayda. The three, along with Arianne Reyes and Samantha Sandbergen, will represent the CNMI public schools in the Guam Regional Scripps Spelling Bee Competition in March this year.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An eighth grader from Hopwood Junior High School emerged as the Public School System's best speller after correctly spelling the word "quixotic" in the First Spelling Competition held Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Fourteen-year-old Ezekiel Rafanan, who appeared calm and confident from the start, bested 31 other contenders from public schools and will be the top representative of the islands at the upcoming Scripps Spelling Bee in Guam.

Rafanan, the son of Reynaldo and Arlene Rafanan, is his school's No. 1 speller during a school-level competition in December.

In an interview after Saturday's contest, Rafanan disclosed that this year will be his

fourth time to join the Guam's spelling bee. He started competing in fifth grade and his best showing so far at the Guam competition was landing in the Top 4 when he was in sixth grade. In another year, he placed eighth in the same competition.

This year, Rafanan is aiming for the top spot so he could represent the region in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. He promised to do his best to represent the CNMI in the Guam contest.

Previously, participation of CNMI schools in the Guam Scripps Spelling Bee was based on the decision of individual schools. PSS this year launched the statewide spelling bee to officially select the system's representative to the contest.

Other top winners of the statewide competition will go with Rafanan to the Guam

See PSS on Page 4

» Top 5 winners to represent CNMI in Guam Scripps Spelling Bee

Local

Acting commissioner: Changes at DPS will be incremental

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Newly nominated Department of Public Safety commissioner Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero said he will start implementing incremental changes at DPS only after a thorough assessment.

Deleon Guerrero, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last week, said his predecessors at DPS have certain programs in place and that if he believes one particular program is running effectively, there should be no reason at all for him to change it.

If a certain program is not running quite effectively or ef-

ficiently, then he would like to focus on that, Deleon Guerrero added.

The acting commissioner cited two key areas—emergency police response and criminal investigations—that, according to him, need to be improved in terms of crime solving.

“I think that if we fixed those two primary components, then it goes a long way toward fixing the overall issue of the department willing to provide a sense of law enforcement ser-

vices,” he said.

Deleon Guerrero, however, stressed that he is the commissioner not just for the police force but also for the fire division and motor vehicles.

DPS, he said, has already made tremendous progress with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and that he wants that to continue.

Deleon Guerrero is hopeful that in the middle part of the year, BMV will be able to introduce a new driver's license system that will be compliant with national stan-



Deleon Guerrero

DPS to proceed with the project's implementation.

A vendor is expected to come to the CNMI this week to install the new system at BMV.

Deleon Guerrero said they obtained funding for the project

from U.S. Homeland Security as part of the driver's license security crime program.

The new licenses, he said, will be “almost counterfeit free” as its security enhancement will meet national standards.

CPUC opposes the continued CUC emergency declarations

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission chair Joseph C. Guerrero says the commission disagrees with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's continued extension of his declaration of a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and, “most importantly,” the suspension of CPUC's regulatory oversight of CUC.

Guerrero wrote a letter to Fitial on Dec. 26 advising the governor of CPUC commissioners' reservations regarding the CUC executive orders.

However, about a month later or on Jan. 18, the governor extended anew the CUC emergency declaration, along with that of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Commission, said the utilities commission has sought the help of the Legislature in bringing the matter to the Fitial administration's attention.

The commission chair pointed out that Public Law 15-35 vests the commission with the authority to review for approval or disapproval any contractual agreement CUC enters into that may increase rates and charges to consumers.

He said CUC must also receive CPUC's approval before completing a significant purchase of capital for the production or transmission of electricity.

During the governor's CUC emergency declarations suspending CPUC authority, the governor and his former attorney general signed a no-bid \$190.8 million power purchase agreement for 25 years and a request for proposal that's now being drafted for at least a 40-megawatt power plant may not also undergo CPUC review.

Guerrero said PL 15-35 also makes CPUC, rather than the Judiciary, the initial entity for reviewing and hearing customer complaints regarding CUC's operations.

The CPUC chair attached a copy of CPUC legal counsel G. Anthony Long's opinion articulating the legal basis for the commissioners' concerns regarding the executive orders. Guerrero also asked for a meeting with Fitial since December, but to no avail. Besides Guerrero, the other commissioners are Zenie Mafnas and Oscar Quitugua.

Members of the House leadership including Vice Speaker Frank dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) have vowed to scrutinize of the governor's emergency declarations, but first they have to amend an existing law to give teeth to any legislative objection to the governor's executive orders.

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MONETH G. DEPOSA

Federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, standing center, speaks to parents during a breakout session in Thursday's PSS Parents Summit at Saipan World Resort.

CHCC: 90 deaths due to NCDs noted in 2010

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., through its tobacco prevention and control program, disclosed that there is an alarming mortality rate in the Commonwealth due to non-communicable diseases.

According to Becky Robles, Public Health Tobacco Prevention and Control program coordinator, a total of 90 individuals died due to NCDs in 2010. This makes NCDs among the Top 5 leading causes of deaths in the Commonwealth.

Data presented to participants of the Public School System's Parents Summit last Thursday showed that cancer remains the top "killer" on the islands with 23 deaths two years ago. This is followed by heart disease, which is blamed for 21 deaths in 2010. Stroke killed 19 other persons that same year. Pneumonia is also a leading driver of the mortality rate, with 16 dying from this disease two years ago. Sepsis also ranks high, with 11 deaths in 2010.

Based on public health records, 7 out of 10 persons with non-communicable diseases get their diseases mainly through their lifestyle and the lack of physical activities.

In pointing out the importance of parental involvement, Robles said their latest data show that tobacco consumption among the youth can be reduced, if not eradicated.

A 2011 behavioral risk survey conducted among secondary students showed that 23.9

percent of high school students in public schools smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days that the survey was conducted. Students who consumed smokeless cigarettes were at 35.2 percent.

Robles disclosed that 21.1 percent of adults in the CNMI smoke cigarettes while 21.2 percent of adults chew betel nut with tobacco.

Robles emphasized the urgent need in the Commonwealth to adopt changes in people's lifestyles to address the spread of non-communicable diseases. The island culture and some traditional family practices, she said, are major factors in the increasing number of patients and a major reason for the high mortality rates on the islands.

NCDs, she added, are also prime factors in the increasing number of dialysis patients. The CNMI has to date over 150 dialysis patients being treated at the hospital and in a private dialysis facility.

The Division of Public Health earlier revealed that NCDs continue to ravage the Western Pacific region, with record high rates of diabetes, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, gout, arthritis, and depression. This prompted the Pacific Island Health Officers Association to declare a regional state of health emergency in 2010.



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BUSINESSPERSON

From Page 1

ence as she shared the stage with Pellegrino to receive their award.

She thanked her husband, a 1998 Businessperson of the Year awardee Joe C. Ayuyu of McDonald’s of Saipan, for his support. She thanked the person who nominated her, as well as her role model and inspiration, 1999 Businessperson of the Year Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan Ltd.

“Every time I go to meetings, important meetings, I look at all of you and I said if you can do it, I can do it,” she added, to the applause of the crowd.

She started managing businesses when her husband opened the first McDonald’s Restaurant on Saipan in 1993. Ten years later, they decided to open RJ Corp. to start diversifying their businesses by building, buying and managing apartments, warehouses and commercial buildings for rent. In 2010, she was nominated as Businesswoman of the Year by Glimpses of Guam.

Pellegrino, for his part, recognized

individuals for putting ideas into action to better the CNMI. He also said that Arctic Circle Air, of which he is president and shareholder, has been made much bigger than imagined to serve all the islands because of individuals like his business partners Paul Zak and JMSH LLC president Hee Cho, both present at the ceremony.

Pellegrino, a former member of the CNMI Board of Education, started his business ventures on Saipan in 1984. Besides Saipan Sea Ventures, he also owns Saipan Ice and Water Co., Saipan Aquaculture Inc., and the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, a non-profit trade school.

CNMI’s importance to US military

Saturday night’s ceremonies at Aqua Resort Club also served as the installation of the 2013 Chamber board of directors led by president Alex Sablan, with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Joint Region Marianas Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne as guest speaker.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate President Jude Hofschneider (IR-Tinian)

and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) joined other CNMI government officials, businesspersons and guests.

Payne assured of the Marianas’ importance in the ongoing rebalancing of forces to the Asia-Pacific region because of its strategic location and called for continued partnership between the military and the community, while at the same time commending the CNMI for its continued hospitality to military personnel and their families visiting the islands for rest and recreation.

PSS

From Page 1

spelling bee. They are second placer Michelle Bermudes from William S. Reyes Elementary School and third placer Jenikah Elayda, also from WSR; Hopwood’s Arianne Reyes, fourth placer; and Samantha Sandbergen from Tinian Elementary, fifth placer. Serving as alternates for the group are Elayda and Reyes. For Bermudes, Saturday’s competi-

“Keep doing what you’re doing,” he said, adding that during a tour of the island, he and his family were “struck by the beauty of Saipan... You really do live in paradise.” Payne is also the U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, CNMI, FSM and Palau.

Chamber executive director Richard Pierce and 2005 Chamber Businessperson of the Year awardee David M. Sablan Sr. of Century Insurance cracked jokes between speeches and presentations of awards.

Associate Judge David Wiseman swore in the new Chamber officers and

directors for the twelfth consecutive year.

Alex A. Sablan of Tan Holdings Corp. replaced Douglas Brennan of Microl Corp. as Chamber president.

Sablan outlined the new officers and directors’ plans for the year, including working with other stakeholders in putting a stay on the next round of 50-cent minimum wage increase that is scheduled for this year, and revisiting the CNMI’s Qualifying Certificate program as proposed in Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero’s (IR-Saipan) bill in the 17th Legislature.

CORRUPTION

From Page 1

“benefited” from the inmate takeover, a statement that Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) described as “downright insulting” and a “slap” in the people’s face.

“To say that the massage provided by a federal detainee in the wee hours [of] the morning benefited the people of the Commonwealth is a slap to the people’s face. I almost fell off my chair. Her statement is very irresponsible to say the least. It is downright insulting,” Dela Cruz, one of the seven impeachment panel members, told the *Saipan Tribune*.

Ogumoro defended the governor at every turn during Friday’s discussion on Articles 3, 5, and 7. She pointed to the governor’s 2010 affidavit stating that Fitial was suffering from severe back pain and the only masseuse he knew who could ease the pain tempo-

rarily was in jail.

“Ultimately, the people of the CNMI benefits by having a governor that’s not sick, who can do the job... I want the governor to be healthy,” Ogumoro said.

Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) separately said it is “ludicrous” for anyone to suggest that the governor is justified in getting a massage from a federal inmate taken out of her cell in the wee hours of the morning.

He said severe back pain is “not an excuse” and does not justify the illegal release of an inmate. “It is like justifying breaking the law. No one is above the law,” he said, adding that the issue is not whether it’s justified, but whether it is authorized or legal.

Deleon Guerrero, the main author of the impeachment resolution, said the governor’s own affidavit and testimony of other individuals supported the felony and corruption allegations against him related to the inmate’s unauthorized release.

Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) asked a hypothetical question after Ogumoro defended the governor. He asked whether any government official in the CNMI could demand the release of his family physician, for example, if that physician has been jailed.

The governor’s office is not releasing additional statements at this time, saying if and when the process moves to the Senate, that would be the proper venue for the governor to defend himself.

How they voted

Three articles of felony and corruption related to the inmate release passed the impeachment committee by a vote of 5-1 on Friday morning.

Ogumoro voted “no” to Articles 3, 5, and 7.

Another governor ally, Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), was excused from the meeting.

Other members of the committee voted “yes” to the three articles:

chairman Sablan, Dela Cruz, Leon Guerrero, Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

The previous day, the committee also adopted the first two felony charges also related to the federal inmate release.

Friday afternoon was spent reviewing the video footage of testimony provided last year to the previous impeachment panel, on allegations of corruption and neglect of duty related to the governor’s award of an almost \$400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract to a former Cabinet secretary within days of his resignation.

On Friday, Ogumoro asked a few times for a short recess so she could get from her office parts of the packets provided to impeachment panel members and requested additional documents and information.

If the rest of the 18 charges of felony,

corruption and neglect of duty are voted on by the committee this week, then the full House of Representatives could start voting on each of the articles next week.

Fitial can be impeached and convicted on any one of the 18 articles.

At least 14 “yes” votes are needed in the 20-member House to move the impeachment process to the Senate. The impeachment resolution itself has 16 cosponsors.

A minimum of six affirmative votes are needed in the nine-member Senate to convict the governor.

The impeachment committee meetings continue and are broadcast live on Channel 60.

Fitial is the first governor in CNMI history to be the subject of an impeachment resolution under special committee review. One impeachment resolution was voted down last year by his allies in the 17th House, but the 18th House leadership revived the impeachment measure this year.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

Babauta’s resignation is effective Feb. 1, 2013.

“I am honored to be the first native islander to hold this position and hopeful that the values and experience from which I led had helped to provide a better future for all who call the islands home,” Babauta told Obama in his one-page resignation letter.

His resignation comes some two months after being placed on administrative leave in November when federal investigators started reviewing his travel and a still unspecified grant that his office awarded.

Babauta’s letters to Obama and Salazar didn’t cite a specific reason for his resignation.

His message to Salazar, however, was that he’s leaving behind an “improved” OIA.

“I believe that my work, shaped by island values as well as congressional experience, improved the Office of Insular Affairs and, more importantly, benefited my fellow island brothers and sisters,” he said.

Salazar himself has also submitted his resignation but Obama has yet to announce a replacement.

Babauta is among the highest ranking native Pacific Islander serving in the U.S. government. His office has oversight over U.S. insular areas such as the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo made the initial announcement of Babauta’s resignation on Saturday, followed by a statement from CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

‘A friend of the CNMI’

CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when asked for comment Saturday night, said Babauta has “helped the CNMI a lot” and his friendship will be missed.

“I hope that whoever succeeds him will give the kind of attention that Tony had given us for the time he’s been the assistant secretary. I’m not privy to the circumstances surrounding his resignation but I wish him well in his future endeavor. We will miss him and we consider him a friend of the CNMI,” Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Obama nominated Babauta in July 2009. Two months later, the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination.

Delegate Sablan, in a statement, said it was a “milestone for all of us to have someone from the Mariana Islands

heading the Office of Insular Affairs.”

“For that reason alone I certainly regret the news that Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta is leaving the Interior Department,” Sablan said.

He said Babauta has worked hard to help the islands. Most recently, Babauta directed millions of dollars in technical assistance funds to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to get the CNMI hospital back on its feet.

“And he helped coordinate with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to send a team of medical professionals here to respond to the hospital crisis,” Sablan added.

The CNMI delegate said he will be encouraging the Obama administration to retain the position of Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs and to find a person to nominate for that responsibility “who has the same extensive background in island issues that Tony Babauta brought with him.”

Interior officials in CNMI

Sablan also confirmed that Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary Eileen Sobbeck, who has been in charge of the Office of Insular Affairs, will be in the CNMI this week.

Sobbeck is traveling with Sally Howard, the chief of staff of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen

Sebelius.

“They, too, will be focused on the hospital and on making sure that CHC is able to retain its certification and continue providing service to our community,” Sablan said. “So, even though we are losing Assistant Secretary Babauta, we are still getting the attention we need from the highest levels of the federal government.”

Other Interior/OIA personnel will be accompanying Sobbeck and Howard.

Empowering the islands

Babauta said that during his tenure, OIA was able to empower island constituencies by establishing initiatives to engage the non-profit community, encouraged a framework for small local business partnerships, and initiated a campaign to encourage the purchase of local products.

Collaborating with federal partners, OIA under Babauta’s term funded initiatives with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to design renewable energy plans tailored to each island area; the Corps of Engineers to assess every public school classroom throughout the islands; and the Department of Commerce to annually gather and report gross domestic data for each jurisdiction.

The latter was a first in the nation’s

history, he said.

Babauta also testified in Congress for, among other issues, revisiting federal minimum wage policy for the CNMI and American Samoa and addressing outstanding claims from Guam as a result of the island’s occupation during World War II.

“In addition, my office was instrumental in providing interagency leadership to implement extension of national immigration laws to the Northern Mariana Islands and, in so doing, maintaining the Islands’ access to the tourism markets of China and Russia, a critical component of their developing visitor industry. Along with this, we also provided strong recommendations to Congress for the treatment of the foreign workers in the Northern Marianas,” he said in his three-page letter to Salazar.

Guam’s Bordallo, in a statement Saturday, said Guam and the territories “have been well served by Tony’s leadership.”

“As Assistant Secretary, Tony always pushed for the best interests of our people and worked to improve the unique disparities of the insular areas. Although his resignation marks the loss of an important ally for our Pacific Island and Caribbean communities, I am confident he will be successful in his future endeavors,” Bordallo said.

Fitial appoints Judge Inos to Supreme Court

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated on Friday Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos to serve as associate justice of the NMI Supreme Court, three days after the governor also nominat-

ed Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero to serve as Department of Public Safety commissioner.

Fitial's appointments come at a time when a special committee is reviewing a resolution impeaching the governor for 18 articles of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty, including

his failure to timely appoint a Supreme Court chief justice and DPS commissioner.

Inos' nomination requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that his office has yet to receive Inos' appointment letter.

Airport debt service coverage seen at 335 pct.; seaport coverage at 135 pct.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is expected to achieve a debt service coverage ratio of 335 percent and 135 percent coverage for the airport and seaport respectively, according to comptroller Derek Sasamoto.

He informed the CPA board about this positive development last Friday, adding that both projected ratios exceed the required debt service coverage.

Sasamoto said the airport's good ratio is anticipated despite the increase in operational cost during the 12-month period in fiscal year 2012.

It was revealed that the airport incurred excess spending of about \$200,000 last fiscal year when it spent \$9.3 million compared to the \$9.1 million that was budgeted. Sasamoto told members that the

\$200,000 "excess" in spending was due to needed repairs, maintenance, and professional services for the airport.

Saipan Tribune learned that in fiscal year 2012, the airport earned over \$3.1 million, which is higher than what was projected at \$2.4 million. However, operating expenses reached \$2.4 million, exceeding the \$2.2 million projection due to repairs and maintenance, among other reasons.

For seaports, Sasamoto disclosed that cost controls allowed the seaports to slightly exceed a budgeted debt service ratio of 130 percent—compared to the 135 percent expected coverage for fiscal year 2012.

Board members were also informed that revenues for seaports went down last fiscal year. Seaport revenues have been declining for the past years due to a decrease in the volume of the imports and ex-

ports within the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune learned that seaport revenues last fiscal year was at \$6 million, the bulk of which came from the Saipan seaport.

Sasamoto reminded the board that CPA, having no control on exportation and importation issues that drive seaport revenues, must leverage all it can to control its expenditure costs.

He also reported Friday the recent ratings received by CPA from Fitch Ratings pertaining to an airport bond. The global rating agency has affirmed CPA's rate from "stable" to "positive" outlook due to the progress it made in its financials.

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If confirmed by the Senate, Inos will fill the vacancy that resulted in the elevation of then Justice Alexandro Castro to the position of chief justice.

"Throughout his legal career, Judge Inos has long demonstrated a steadfast commitment to public service. The lieutenant governor and I are confident he will serve all our people with distinction from the NMI Supreme Court bench," the governor said in a statement Friday.

The justice nominee is the nephew of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Saipan Tribune learned during the weekend, however, that the lieutenant governor didn't know about the nomination until after the nomination letter came out.

Speaker Joseph Deleon Guer-

ero (IR-Saipan), in an interview at a Saipan Chamber of Commerce event on Saturday, said he welcomes the governor's nominations for Senate consideration but he said these won't change the ongoing impeachment proceedings.

He said he finds it "interesting" that within days, the governor has been making the appointments he should have done a long time ago.

"Does it look like reactionary? I am happy that he has appointed people to important positions, including Attorney General JP San Nicolas, a justice and a DPS commissioner. But did it take an impeachment resolution for him to do that? Why did it take him so long to appoint?" the speaker asked.

The governor, in a statement late Friday afternoon, expressed his deep appreciation for Inos' willingness to serve the CNMI in a new capacity.

He noted that "there is no doubt that Judge Inos is the right person, with the right acumen, to join Chief Justice Castro and Associate Justice John Manglona in carrying out the duties of the Supreme Court with utmost impartiality and in good conscience."

"Judge Inos has demonstrated an upstanding record in his years as an attorney and in his capacity as a Superior Court judge," Fitial said. "The recent results of his retention election prove that he is indeed ethical, hardworking, and an advocate for fairness in the courtroom."



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CNMI Water Task Force ITB 13-GOV- 062



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 7, 2013.**

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **January 18, 2013.**

Sealed Bids must be marked **"Supply of Wellhead Materials", ITB13-GOV-062** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013.** Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013** and must be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service no later than **February 5, 2013** AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **February 14, 2013.**

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 15, 2013. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013.

Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposal and to waive any imperfection in a proposal in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

US govt seeks to complete sale of Ogumoro property

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has requested the federal court to issue an order directing the U.S. Marshal to complete the sale of a piece of land owned by Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro so he could make a partial payment on a default judgment in connection with a fishing boat oil spill in 2004.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz, in the U.S. government's application for writ of execution filed Thursday, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order that upon receipt of the proceeds of the land from

the U.S. Marshal, the clerk of court shall deposit the funds and issue a check to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Cruz said that Ambrosio Ogumoro, as well as the previous owner of the property, Leiana K. Ogumoro, agreed to the sale of the property in a settlement agreement executed in the 2009 civil case against Ambrosio and his daughter, Leiana.

The prosecutor said the settlement agreement stipulates that Ambrosio and Leiana Ogumoro give their consent to the U.S. to sell and receive the entire proceeds from the sale of the land, either through private sale, foreclosure, or public sale.

Cruz said partial satisfaction

of the default judgment by sale of the lot, as agreed to in the settlement agreement, has not been completed because the title to the property remains with Ambrosio Ogumoro and the property has not been sold.

In May 2006, the U.S. government, on behalf of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, filed a lawsuit against Ambrosio Ogumoro and two others to recover the oil spill clean-up costs.

The boat, owned by Ambrosio Ogumoro and co-defendants, sank within the Tanapag Harbor in June 2004.

The defendants failed to defend the case. As a result, the court issued a default judgment in December 2006, finding the defendants jointly liable to pay \$3.4 million plus interest.

In 2009, the U.S. government filed a lawsuit in federal court against Ambrosio Ogumoro for alleged fraudulent transfer of his land located on Capital Hill to Leiana despite his failure to pay \$3.7 million in damages over the oil spill incident.

The DPS deputy commissioner has denied that the transfer of land was fraudulent. In 2010, he entered a settlement agreement with the U.S. government.

Trial of former WPS principal begins today

The trial of former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl will start today, Monday, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The trial is set to commence with jury selection.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy is prosecuting the case. Attorney David Banes is counsel for Weindl.

The U.S. government charged the 57-year-old Weindl with two counts of receiving child pornography and two counts of accessing child pornography with intent to view it.

Weindl pleaded not guilty.

FBI agents arrested Weindl in June 2012 on charges he used a netbook to review child pornographic materials.

According to the indictment, on June 15 and 18, 2012, Weindl received or attempted to receive "still image and video files depicting minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct, including oral sex, sexual intercourse, and the lascivious exhibition of the genitals and pubic area."

The prosecution alleged that Weindl accessed almost 200 websites containing images of child pornography. Weindl also allegedly searched for images depicting violent sexual abuse of children. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



NOTICE OF MEETING NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. **Call Meeting to Order (9:30a.m – 9:50a.m)**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 1. November 09, 2012 Continued on November 13, 2012 – Regular Meeting
 2. December 21, 2012 – Regular Meeting
 3. December 28, 2012 – Special Meeting
 4. January 07, 2013 – Special Meeting
- II. **Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. **(9:50a.m – 10:00a.m)**
- III. **Board Chair's Remarks (10:00a.m. – 10:10a.m)**
- IV. **WASC Accreditation Update (10:10a.m – 10:30a.m.)**
- V. **Old Business**
 - a. **Performance Evaluation of the NMC President (10:30a.m – 11:00a.m.)**
 - b. **BOR Committee Structure**
 - c. **Board Policy for Consideration – First Reading (11:00a.m – 11:30a.m.)**
 1. Repeal of old Board Policies – Student Services (Action Item)
 2. Repeal of old Board Policies – Human Resources (Action Item)
 3. Repeal of old Board Policies – Finance and Procurement (Action Item)

Lunch Break 11:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.

 - d. **Board Policy for Consideration – Second Reading (1:00p.m. – 1:30p.m)**
 1. Board Policy No. 206 – Policy Introduction, Amendment, Passage and Suspension (Action Item)
 2. Board Policy No. 206.3 – Budget, Audit and Finance Committee (Action Item)
 3. Board Policy No. 401 – Residency Classification (Action Item)
 4. Board Policy No. 402 – Student Health Insurance (Action Item)
- VI. **New Business (1:30p.m – 1:45p.m)**
 - a. **Presidential Goals for FY2013**
 - b. **2014 NMC Budget Submission**
 - c. **Request to support the construction of a Medical School**
 - d. **Proposed administrative regulations of the Northern Marianas College to enforce its Drug Free Workplace, Smoking Tobacco and Betel Nut Policy**
- VII. **Legislative Update (1:45p.m – 1:50p.m)**
- VIII. **Reports (1:50p.m – 2:50p.m.)**
 - a. **President's Report**
 1. Associated Students of Northern Marianas College (ASNMC)
 2. Staff Senate
 3. Faculty Senate
 - b. **Dean of Administration Report**
 - c. **Program Highlights – Math Programs**
 - d. **BOR Standing Committees**
 1. Budget and Finance Committee
 2. Program Committee
 3. AdHOC Committees
- IX. **Board Annual Self-Evaluation (2:50p.m – 3:50p.m)**
- X. **Executive Session (4:00p.m – 5:00p.m)**
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- XI. **Upcoming Board Activities (5:00p.m)**
 1. Schedule Next Regular Meeting
 2. PSS/BOR Joint meeting
- XII. **Adjournment**

/s/ Elaine Hocog Orilla
Acting BOR Chairperson

Date: January 24, 2013



U.S. PROBATION/PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE DISTRICTS OF GUAM AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EMPLOYMENT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: GUP 13-002

POSITION: Probation/Pretrial Services
Administrative Assistant

SALARY: \$34,356 to \$55,864
(Salary commensurate with experience plus 13.84% COLA, which is subject to change)

CLOSING DATE: February 19, 2013 at 4 pm.

LOCATION OF VACANCY: Saipan

The complete announcement, AO78 application form, and position description are available at our website at <http://www.gup.uscourts.gov>.

The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Lions Club donates books, shoes to SSHS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Marianas Lions Club members are joined by Saipan Southern High School students to show off the shoes and books the club donated to the school on Friday.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club donated last Friday rubber shoes and books for underprivileged students at Saipan Southern High School.

Club officers and members presented the donation to SSHS staff led by principal Lyn Mendiola, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and student council officers.

Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Paul Madriaga said Friday that the shoe donation idea came from Lion Annamae Adaza, who serves as vice president in the PTSA.

Adaza found out that some students don't have rubber shoes to use in their physical education classes, inspiring the Lions to solicit sponsorship for the needed footwear, said Madriaga.

"Some might say it's only rubber shoes but it is a big thing for these students. This is one of those things that hamper the learning process of our students," he said.

Madriaga said they sought assistance from their counterparts in District 204 in Guam and are grateful that some of them responded to the call, sending check donations or actual boxes of shoes to Saipan.

"This is just a proof that local Lions can go beyond its border and seek help for the benefit of our community," said Madriaga, thanking Lions Emelio Uy of National Office Supply, Rey Acierio, Zeny Cachila, Linda Tolan, and Rose Moore.

"As the students receive these new pairs of shoes, I believe their morale will be higher and the students will eventually be motivated. Who knows, among the student recipients is one good athlete waiting to be discovered and show his or her po-

tential," he added.

The 40 pairs of rubber shoes, valued at \$1,000, was also made possible through the efforts of Saipan Marianas Lions Club officers and members who sang carols to raise funds for the cause, Madriaga said.

They are Adaza, Olive Yana, Nel Atalig, Flor Miranda, Ana De Guzman, Rey Garcia, Tin Podiquit, Linda Arriola, Lolit Velasco, Domeng Dones, Rudy Santos, and volunteers Rex Yabut, Lolit Albarico, and Ramhae Awit.

Madriaga also expressed his appreciation to generous community members who supported their caroling activity: Shirley Kim, Lito and Malou Mendoza, Richard and Babes

Cano, Pete and Jean Camacho, Albert and Emy Tiu, Richard Saludez, Ruben and Liza Averdano, Gary and Nora Orpiano, Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr., Dr. Esther Kanayjorn, Elena Delos Santos, Marcia Ayuyu, Yoly de Ramos, Mario Mayuga, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Lucy Cabrera, Angel Demapan, and governor's office staff, Danny and Remy Buniag.

Meanwhile, the two boxes of books that were also handed over Friday came from the Wellingham Lions Club in Washington State, MD 19.

To become a Lions Club member, contact membership chair Nel Atalig at 989-3858, secretary Olive Yana at 989-9823 or Madriaga at 287-4501.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-014

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-014, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for January 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of bidder's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Paul Raczkowski, Water/Wastewater Manager via address paul.raczkowski@cucgov.org

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

'Rota must do its part to improve tourist sites'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the central government's focus on improving tourism in the CNMI, Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola emphasized that now would be a good time to begin upgrading tourist facilities and activities on the southern island so it can get a share of the visitor arrival increase on Saipan.

Enhancing existing facilities as well as coming up with additional attractions for tourists would make Rota more attractive and encourage tourists to visit or return to the island, Mendiola said.

"We need to work on things that would make it a reality," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mendiola said Rota needs to renovate its tourist sites by repairing and repainting pavilions

and other tourism-related structures to make them attractive.

He said they already embarked on the road paving project from Sinapalo to Bird Sanctuary, one of the tourist sites on the southernmost island of the Northern Marianas. Mendiola considers the project a major improvement since it will make the site more accessible to tourists.

"We are currently fixing our tourist sites so we can have a healthier environment for guests. We need to clear obstacles like this to make Rota more appealing and eye-catching," said Mendiola.

According to Mendiola, he is also encouraging residents to engage in eco-tourism businesses that would increase activities for tourists visiting Rota.

Although it does not seem encouraging because of the amount of investment it entails,

the mayor noted that developing eco-tourism and culture-related businesses now would prove to be beneficial for the island community in the long run.

Mendiola said that Rota can take advantage of what it has to offer by developing eco-tourism and culture tourism on the island, thereby carving a destination for specific types of tourists.

He said the island can capitalize on its flora and fauna by promoting Rota to bird watchers, college students, and members of the academe who are intent on studying endemic or endangered species on the island.

Habitual offender is arrested for not turning in self to DOC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A habitual offender who was convicted of domestic violence was arrested Thursday afternoon for failing to turn himself to the Department of Corrections that day, pursuant to a Superior Court order.

Albert Pinaula Deleon Guerrero was arrested by Probation Officer Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro when he went to the Superior Court to follow his girlfriend who was seeking help from the Probation's Office.

The 30-year-old Deleon Guerrero was allegedly drunk

Mendiola said that Rota can also work on becoming an attractive place for those who are into the study of plants since the island is rich in herbal medicines and other types of plant life.

"We can attract the attention of those who can come and see Rota. Every little thing counts," he added.

Given the municipality's limited funding, however, Mendiola said the development of eco-tourism and culture tourism of Rota should be undertaken by the private sector as they have more funding available to engage in such ventures.

at the time of his arrest. He was taken to court on Friday at 4pm.

Deleon Guerrero failed to turn himself in at DOC on Thursday pursuant to the court's Jan. 10, 2013, judgment and commitment order.

Camacho set a \$1,000 cash bail and remanded the defendant back to DOC to start serving his one-year sentence.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed to represent Deleon Guerrero in the contempt case.

Last Jan. 10, Camacho sentenced Deleon Guerrero to one year in prison for beating his girlfriend. His sentence will be served without the possibility of parole and work or weekend release.

Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty to assault and battery. He is no stranger to crimes as he has five criminal convictions that include assault and battery and trafficking of a controlled substance. He also has 10 traffic cases and two temporary restraining orders in family court.

Jesus M. Castro
Ana D. Castro
P.O. Box 502645
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670)323-5377

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER) FCD AD CIVIL
OF THE) ACTION
ADOPTION) NO. 13-0039
OF: KJDC)
(04/27/2006)) NOTICE OF
Minor Child,) HEARING
By:)
)
Jesus M. Castro)
and Ana D. Castro)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 11, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 25th, day of January, 2013

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 28, 2000

Rota mayor turns to FAA for airport expansion

Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona is asking immediate assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration for the improvement and rehabilitation of the island's international airport runway and facilities. In a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Acting Manager for Airports District Office Daniel Matsumoto, Mr. Manglona stressed the need to improve and upgrade runway and terminal facilities of the Rota International Airport. "The island of Rota is now ready to embark into a major tourist destination. However, the impediment of our success is because of the port and desperate condition of our airport runway and facilities," he told Mr. Matsumoto.

Increase in seaport revenues seen

Consistent growth in Saipan's apparel manufacturing industry is expected to give the revenue-generating capabilities of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's harbor operations a major push, according to financial experts. Studies commissioned by the ports authority in efforts to secure seaport bond rating projected consistent increase in the marine division's revenue until 2002. The increase in the seaport operating revenues, expected to hit over \$5 million in 2002, will be fueled by development in the local garment manufacturing industry. This figure is nearly 25 percent higher than the FY 1998 tally of \$4.3 million.

Jan. 28, 2002

Medical board opposes foreign licensure bill

In an effort to block the passage into law of a legislative measure that seeks to allow licensure of foreign medical practitioners in the CNMI, the Medical Profession Licensing Board made a strong opposition against it before Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who has the power to veto the bill. House Bill 12-355, also known as the Foreign Doctors Licensure Act, was reportedly passed by both chambers of the Legislature, based on the information received by the MPLB. Saying that such a measure would diminish the competence of medical practice in the Commonwealth if it becomes a law, the MPLB wrote a letter to Babauta stating its position on the issue, which was reached after a special board meeting last week.

CJPA has \$500K in US grants

More than half-a-million dollars in federal grant funds are now available for application by agencies that are directly involved in the rehabilitation of crime victims, juvenile delinquents and drug users. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency disclosed that federal funds amounting to \$562,810 are now available for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Challenge Activity E and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT). The CJPA is the Commonwealth's state administering agency for these programs but the grants will be awarded by the NMI Commonwealth Supervisory Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System through a sub-grant process.

Jan. 28, 2004

'No complaint so far about fuel price hikes'

The Attorney General's Office yesterday said it has not received any complaint from consumers regarding the recent increases in retail prices of petroleum products. Thus there is no sufficient basis yet to conduct an investigation, said Assistant Attorney General Brian Caldwell. He added, though, that the AGO would continue to monitor fuel prices in the CNMI. The AGO had recently announced joining the gas price-monitoring project by the Federal Trade Commission. Shell gas stations increased fuel prices by an average of seven cents per gallon since Jan. 14, the first hike in gas prices this year. Mobil gas stations followed suit by implementing an increase of an average of four cents a gallon. Sometime last week, Mobil again raised its prices by an average of three cents a gallon.

98 percent unliquidated funds on student travel

Records showed that 98 percent of travel advances made by Public School System students for Fiscal Years 2003-2004 have not been settled. A PSS finance office report showed that as of Jan. 13, 2004, only \$12 or 2 percent of the total \$835 in local funds that were spent on student travel has been settled. Student accounts include expenses for inter-island trips and various academic-related travels, including participation in academic contests. The students' account registered a \$648.32 balance in FY 2003. At present, the balance is set at \$823.32.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Property Manager

Property Manager for 131 condominium units located at ANAKS Ocean View Hill Resort in Puerto Rico, Saipan. Duties include management of contractors for R.O. water system, generator maintenance, security, grounds maintenance and five employees. Experience in business management, property management, accounting, bookkeeping and fluency in spoken and written Japanese are pluses.

Applicants may be individuals or corporations. Please submit written proposals to rbarrineau@saipan.com or mail to Anaks Homeowners Association, Box 505943, Saipan, MP 96950.



[1] EXECUTIVE CHEF (CHINESE CUISINE)

Our Resort is looking for a professional candidate with a solid Executive Chef and Chinese Cuisine experience who will help develop and implement the strategic direction of the Resort's Chinese food offering through product and menu development and by supporting the kitchen teams and monitoring and reviewing product consistency and quality at all times.

As the Chinese Cuisine Executive Chef, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Collaborating with higher management and other Chefs to develop and plan menu requirements, serving arrangements and other related details
- Enforcing and following compliance procedures for sanitation & cleanliness and monitoring workstations & staff for adherence to those procedures.
- Providing training to strengthen his/her team's current performance and monitoring cooks and chefs for proper skills and service
- Maintaining food cost at reasonable levels without affecting quality and standards

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Vocational School or Associate's Degree graduate or equivalent years of relevant experience
- Minimum Experience: Five years of experience cooking and preparing Chinese food in a high-volume food service facility or in a high volume hospitality environment and at least three years in an Executive Chef or similar role.
- Excellent cooking skills and extensive knowledge of Chinese Cuisine and food handling procedures with regard to public health standards
- Demonstrated aptitude for the financial aspects of food operation, including the successful identification of expense reduction through cost control
- Ability to speak English clearly, distinctly and cordially with guests
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our Resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 30, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Former speaker is now Parks and Recreation director

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTERS

Former House speaker Eli Cabrera has been appointed director of the Division of Parks

and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Other former lawmakers aligned with the governor and lost their re-election bid may also get government jobs,

multiple sources said.

DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios, also a former speaker, appointed Cabrera on Jan. 15, a day after the 18th Legislature was sworn into office. Cabrera,

a speaker at the 17th Legislature, started working on Jan. 16.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Palacios introduced Cabrera to the Special Tourism Working Group as director of

DLNR's Division of Parks and Recreation last week.

After the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, Cabrera told the media that he's considering running for Saipan mayor in 2014. He also said he would like to work closely with individual

communities to promote and preserve safety and cleanliness.

Cabrera was among those aligned with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his Republican Party that lost their seats to pro-impeachment candidates during the Nov. 6 mid-term polls.

Forum seeks to raise profile of small business credit initiative

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is planning to send a representative to the State Small Business Credit Initiative Pacific Islander Roundtable next month.

The event, to be held on Guam on Feb. 26 and 27 and in Hawaii on Feb. 28, aims to gather SSBCI stakeholders to promote the program to lenders in the region.

SSBCI provides federal funding to states and territories to strengthen programs that support private financing to small businesses and manufacturers. The responsible agency for SSBCI in the CNMI is the Department of Commerce, which has already received \$4.35 million, the first of three disbursements

of the funds.

CDA is the implementing agency for the two approved SSBCI programs in the Northern Marianas: the loan purchase participation program and the collateral support program.

Manuel A. Sablan, CDA executive director, said that the SSBCI Pacific Islander Roundtable will provide "good exposure" for the Commonwealth's available SSBCI programs, which are still in the development phase.

Sablan said he wants CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho and the secretary or the deputy secretary of the CNMI Department of Commerce to attend the event.

Camacho, for his part, said that the SSBCI Pacific Islander Roundtable will not just be attended by key players of finan-

cial institutions but also federal officials from the U.S. Treasury, Federal Reserve System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., and the Michigan Economic Development Corp., which is in the process of forging a partnership with CDA for its SSBCI programs.

According to Camacho, CDA has met with bank executives doing business in the Northern Marianas in an effort to promote the SSBCI program, which he described as open to both local and foreign entrepreneurs.


While these banks have expressed interest in the SSBCI program, Camacho noted that their agency has yet to get an

actual bank on board to have the program fully launched and start stimulating economic activity in the Commonwealth.

Sablan blamed the lack of enthusiasm among banks for the program on the uncertainty of the island economy. This risk, he said, should be covered by SSBCI, which is designed to be bank-driven and is the only

program that has funding that essentially becomes the money of the state or territory once deployed since it's not paid back.

"It is our hope that when the federal people come over to Guam and Hawaii, they will help us basically to promote this federal program channeled to states and territories to provide more capital to businesses," he added.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DOF/REV-068**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES
FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF
REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Department of Commerce regulations under Title 20, Chapter 20-40, Marianas Insurance Co., Ltd. (MICO) issues this PUBLIC NOTICE of its intent to petition for the release of its security deposit in escrow for MICO issued labor surety bonds.

Any objection to such release must be filed within one week from the date of last publication of this notice to the CNMI Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, from 8am to 4pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Jan. 29-30, from 9am to 5pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. (PR)

MHS class of '83 general meeting on Feb. 5

The Marianas High School class of 1983 will hold its general meeting on Feb. 5, 2013, 7pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion on the Civic Center Beach in Susupe. (PR)

Search on for 'Couple Married Longest'

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is joining other Marriage Encounter groups around the United States in searching for the "Couple Married Longest in the CNMI." The Couple Married Longest search is being conducted in preparation for honoring World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. If you have been married for over 50 years, or if you know of friends or relatives who have been, and both spouses are still living, email their names, phone numbers and wedding date to cnmiwmd@yahoo.com. The deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 2013. The winning couple will be honored with a WWME World Marriage Day Certificate at one of the selected World Marriage Day Masses. (PR)

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES Workshop on Marine Protected Areas

Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013
Time: 8:00am to 5:00pm
Location: Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort



Who should attend?

This workshop is open to the public and targets fishermen and fisherwomen, state federal and non-governmental individuals engaged in protecting or are interested in learning about the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Conference Objectives

- Address historical establishments of MPAs in the CNMI.
- Discuss MPA benefits and tradeoffs.
- Explore means of federal assistance.
- Discuss MPA Enforcement and Challenges.
- Discuss upcoming MPA related projects.

For more information, and to register for the workshop please contact Mr. Frank Villagomez of the Division of Fish and Wildlife at telephone number 664-6044 or by e-mail at fvillagomez.dfw@gmail.com.

This advertisement is paid for by a NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries grant administered by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 19Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

For the military, bigger shocks await than women in combat

For too long, America's image of its military has not matched its reality. We think Omaha Beach or Iwo Jima, massed attacks on fixed emplacements supported by armor, artillery and aircraft.

It's entirely possible that kind of war will never be fought again; technology has obviated the need and costs are out of sight. Today's reality is "irregular warfare," wars without front lines fought by small units against guerrillas. The future is likely to be counter-insurgency operations that require fewer, but better-trained troops, supported by civil affairs units, sophisticated communications and tactical aircraft, with or without pilots. There will be less need for the heavy tanks and howitzers that must be moved by sea and serviced by crews of strong men.

Given all of that, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have decided that there's no reason that women can't play valuable roles in small-unit combat. On Thursday, outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced that the armed services would begin lifting rules that excluded women from combat branches. There may still be some exclusions—special forces, for example. Plans aren't due until May 15, and full implementation will take three years.

It's about time. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said, "It reflects the reality of 21st-century military operations."

The truth is, the symbolism of this is more important than the reality. In coming years, the nation will need fewer combat soldiers, regardless of gender. Plans are under way to reduce Army troop levels by 27,000 and Marine forces by 20,000 over the next four years. In part this is because the Iraq war is over and the Afghanistan war is winding down. In part it's because of budget pressures.

And even if a young woman decides she wants to serve in a combat branch, it's not easy, regardless of gender. Already 27 percent of 17-to-24-year-old Americans don't meet basic physical standards for recruitment, most of them because they're significantly overweight.

Things get tougher, first at basic training and then at advanced infantry school. The Marines last year conducted an experiment by allowing two women to go through infantry officer training. Both flunked, as did 30 of 107 male candidates.

The new training standards for combat branches are expected to be gender-neutral. If you can't hack it, you don't pass. That's only fair: If there's a mortar to be humped up a mountainside, everyone should be able to carry his share of the load. Or hers.

There will be some women who can train themselves up to qualify. Inevitably, however, more women than men will lack the necessary physical size or strength.

But women who can meet the challenge can wear the combat infantry badge. That, too, is only fair.

For years, female officers have complained that the lack of combat experience has hampered their chances at promotion. In the Army's "muddy boots culture," officers with experience in a combat environment—whether they've pulled a trigger or not—are more likely to win the medals and recognition that impress promotions boards.

That's a troubling standard. Too often promotions come because of time in service, not merit and performance. A 2010

See COMBAT on Next Page



Trust, trust! Where are you?

"Every kind of peaceful cooperation among men is primarily based on mutual trust and only secondarily on institutions such as courts of justice and police."—Albert Einstein

"I don't trust him!" "He can't be trusted!" "I cannot trust you, I don't want to work with you [marry you] [deal with you]." "You have betrayed my trust!"

How often does the word trust play in your daily life? Isn't it the most important criteria for establishing relationships with everyone we come in contact with—our spouses, our children, our friends, our bosses, our government? Can we live a healthy and normal social life without trust? Can a community be safe and prosperous without trust among its citizens? What does trust really mean?

Today our beautiful community is beset with a sickness. We are sick from the loss of trust among ourselves. Trust has been broken so many times by our administration and some members of the Legislature that we go around looking for anyone we can trust. We have gotten to the point that we have become so mistrustful of our governor that we are about to impeach him. This act has caused so much distrust among our community. One of our senators is in jail, accused of one or two misdemeanors. How many other acts of mistrust do we deal with daily? We are confused. Who can we trust? As a result our community has become splintered.

But why am I discussing the act of trust at this time? I feel it is mistrust that is plaguing our community more than lack of prosperity. When we trust we feel secure and comfortable.

Trust is a function of several things: character, assured reliance on that character, ability, and strength of truthfulness of someone or something. Character includes our integrity, our motives, and our intent with people. Competence includes our capabilities, our skills, our results, and our track record. All are vital if we are to trust and be trusted.

The word "trust" is the most frequently used measure of evaluation in our relationship with others. When we trust we feel secure. When we mistrust we feel insecure and troubled. The opposite of trust is betrayal, perhaps one of the most abominable sins against another person. Recall the famous scene in Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*; when his most trusted friend Brutus also stabs him. Julius turns to him and says: "And you too, Brutus! Thus I die."

We are in the process of impeaching our governor who is in his second term. This situation has pitted friend against friend. We question each other's motives. To impeach or not to impeach—that is the question. Our newly elected members of the Legislature must decide this monumental issue. What will they decide? Thus we have become polarized from our government so that we question: Can we trust them?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



In his book *The Speed of Trust*, Stephen M.R. Covey discusses five waves of trust. The first wave is self-trust. To build trust with others we must first start with ourselves. It's all about credibility. It's about developing the integrity, intent, capabilities and results that make us believable, both to ourselves and to others. Do I trust myself? Am I someone I can trust? Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best: "Self-trust is the first secret of success...the essence of heroism."

The second wave is relationship trust. It involves behavior—consistent behavior. It is about learning how to interact with others in ways that increases trust and avoids interacting in ways that destroy it. Quoting from Mr. Covey's book: "Be honest. Tell the truth. Let people know where you stand. Use simple language. Call things what they are. Demonstrate integrity. Don't manipulate people or distort facts. Don't spin the truth. Don't leave false impressions."

The third wave is about creating organizational trust. Peter Drucker tells us that organizations are no longer built on force but on trust. This concept of trust or the lack of it can be viewed daily as we watch our government in action. How many of our elected officials trust each other? How many government agencies trust each other? Many of them play the game of protecting their turf rather than trying to work with trust amongst each other.

The fourth wave of trust is market trust. This is defined as the principle of reputation. Oprah Winfrey once said: "In the end all you have is your reputation." Consider why we buy certain brands regardless of price. Market trust is all about brand reputation. Robert Eckert, CEO of Mattel, tells us: "Trust is the key building block in the creation of a company's reputation, and as a result its shareholders value." Let me add that it is also a country's reputation and as a direct result its citizens' value.

Tourists come to Saipan because of our "brand name," and investors invest in the CNMI because of the trust they feel about us. When that trust is smeared or lost, what do we have to offer tourists and investors? I hate to admit it, but I feel that over the past years we have not built too good of a "market trust." Think why we have been losing so many tourists and have so few true investors while Guam is booming in both these two areas.

The fifth wave is societal trust. This is the trust we give to our so-

See TRUST on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lastron Mañainata

Deste kanton tasi hulu' esta i sabana, manma-imprinta i lastron mañainata ni fumana'gue hit sensian hinimide, unestu, pinasensia, linala' espiñat yan yine'ase' gi man-namase' siha na mañeluta.

Ti hulaty' guihe na pat lastru siha, lau ansiosuyu' tumatiye fitme sa' dinanche haf' rekueddun niha giya hita kumu famaguon niha. Dispues, hagas mafatoigue ayu siha na eskalera. Anchu na finapos gi halom barañka yan katma mina' ma-usune man-ma-apatgat hit hafa che'chu' tautau.

Man-makre'ansa hit chechu' tunas, dinanche yan yine'ase' ni fumotma yan sumimientu antau karitatibun kada unu giya hita. Gi todú kinalamten, man-asianu hit chumogue haf' mauleg pot no tana' fanekun mañainata.

Sige mona mas fitme pinekatta gi halom hagas manma-imprinta na lastron niha punta pot punta. Hita man-inkatgau dispues ni achon para tafanu'e i manatatte fina' manana pot chatniha man-lolotgun 'sino abag gi halom homhum.

TRUST

From Page 10

ciety and to our fellow community members. The overriding principal of societal trust is contribution. It is an attempt to give back instead of taking. If we only take, society will break down. How much societal trust are we giving to our community? The giver creates value instead of destroying it.

I do not mean to be preachy, but I have chosen to discuss the value of trust today because I feel we have lost so much of both within ourselves and especially with our leaders. Meanwhile the outside world looks at us and snickers. We have made several serious mistakes at great cost to our community. We must rise to the occasion and once again begin to trust both ourselves and our leaders.

How much trust is extended through a handshake today? Why must legal documents always be the deciding points? Without trust we will never succeed.

Hopefully we will finish the job of removing one of the main causes of our loss of trust. Hopefully our legislators will read this and prove to us that they can be trusted. After all, didn't we believe and trust their words during the election campaign? Let us trust that they did not merely dally with our trust, only to betray it after Election Day.

In closing I quote again from the *Speed of Trust* by Stephan M.R. Cover when he states: "Through my work, community service, and personal and family life over the past 20 years, I have seen enough to convince me that on every level—societal, market, organizational, relationship, and personal—people often have the ability to restore at least some measure of trust when they have lost it...if they're really serious about it. If they're not serious—or if they repeatedly abuse it after restoring it—the opportunity will likely be forfeited."

Let us part with these words: "I trust and believe in you!"

And don't forget to *smile*! It will make you and the other person feel good. So *smile*! Have a great week!

COMBAT

From Page 10

study by the Strategic Studies Institute of the Army War College said it creates an officer corps that is not as qualified as it could be.

Culturally, the new rules present a greater challenge to men than women. Already 88 percent of men graduate from high school compared with 90 percent of women. Twenty-five percent more women than men are enrolling in, and graduating from, college. Pity the young male slacker. Now women will be competing for his default job.

The nice thing about the military, though, is that women and men are paid exactly the same. Opening combat branches to smart, strong, motivated women will make everyone better.

Women in combat are only part of what Sen. Levin meant by "the changing reality of 21st-century military operations." Budgets and missions could shrink as the Pentagon is forced to pay more for pensions and benefits and less for the sorts of weapons it no longer needs. Having been burned by two needless wars, the nation is for the time being far less likely to embark on long-term military operations.

This will create serious displacement as bases are closed and weapons contracts are canceled or cut back. This is a reality the Congress has yet to face.

Compared to all of this, and despite its symbolic importance, Mr. Panetta's announcement Thursday is not a very big change at all.

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Finu' Hinimide

Un' kanta ilelegña patte, "Ya ti siña hu tulaika sa' tat mas gefsaga, kumu ayu siha na islas i Islas Marianas". Este na isla 'nai man-mañagu hit gi halom un' poblen guma. Ya maseha poble tinituhon, ta suñgun todus gi hilu' minagof haf' guinahata.

Tat ti umusune estidiu pot para u atbansa futuron niha gi anaku' na karera. Megai sakrifisiu yan grasia mafagcha'e ya maseha halom didog na chinatsaga, ta pechiñg obligasionta sin ditension sa' guaha mas mauleg ke temporariu na sa'pet.

Halom somnag yan uchan gi entalu' luchan tinanom ta usune che'cho'ta deste oga'an esta'i minachum atdau. Entalu' fugu yan piligru ta batbaruye fumalague fondun tasi pot mantension familia. Ta usune gi hilu' pinasensia pot benefisiun todus.

Lau dispues de man-malulog hit kabales, ta tutuhon sumimientu kustumbren "po'lu ha'" kulan mohon hita gumugu'ot ha'anita. Atan kau i presente na modun linala' gi halom fache' miserable i ta guife deste siete años malofan. Maseha man-tautau hit dudayu' na patte gi kutturan natibu i diskuidun ke sera. "Lau ti siña hu tulaika sa' tat mas gefsaga..."

Tunas Na Kabayeru

I tunas na hayu ni un' supog gi halom hanom siña ha' kulan echoñg mediu patte. Kuestion: Kau tunas pat echoñg ennau na pidasun hayu gi halom hanom? I tinas u saga tunas sa' tunas deste tutuhon ti matulaika. Un' li'e, aidentifika yan klaru un aksepta na tunas ennau na lapes. Ti umechoñg 'nai un' pega gi halom hanom.

I inañgoghu publiku tunas 'nai nina'e hau gi tutuhon. Ni taimanu doblamu, ennau na katgu ti matulaika ni unabes. Lau hagu dumiside para un' tulaika i tai achagua na inañgoghu ni mana'e hau ya maseha makat manlistu para un' magachuñge mona parehu ha' halom katma yan pagyu.

'Nai esta maliñgu kulan sirenu ennau na inañgoghu ni hafa un' chogue esta diniñgu hau ni finapos sirenun inañgoghu ni un' yotten ñaihon sa' esta ti unna' presisu. Lastima sa' mapo'lu hau kulan tatan guma lau hagu mismu sessu tumulaika fan halom-mu gi manlache siha na potta.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Frantic fanaticism**

This is regarding paid advertisements by SDLLC in defense of the indefensible for which I have the following (researched) comments.

First, a disclaimer: Since 2003 (my first letter to the editor regarding CUC), I, and many others, have been trying, mostly in vain, to nail down accurate figures regarding the indefinable agencies' financials, even more enigmatic reports from the governor's office and the still more vague "opportunities" touted by so-called "businessmen" to the CNMI. None of it has ever made any sense, has ever added up, and most are just plain insults to one's intelligence! Thus, all of the below comments are based solely on what few public facts are known about CUC, about SDLLC's proposal, and what can be gleaned from documented research of existing (independent) reports via the Internet.

A few known basic facts:

1) Double the cost of diesel fuel and you cause a rise in the cost of electricity produced by 66 percent.

2) A new efficient 10 MW diesel generator consumes roughly 4,500,000 gallons of fuel per year at 50-90 percent load (older generators have a much shorter span of efficiency).

3) At the current cost of \$4.28 per gallon for diesel fuel, each 10 MW generator costs about \$19.260 million per year (in fuel alone, if generating the full 10 MW 24/7). CUC says it spent \$75.6 million in 2011 to generate a yearly average of just under 40 MW.

4) Fuel cost in the average diesel plant is about 85 to 88 percent of the total cost of operation (CUC [errantly?] puts their cost of fuel at only 70 percent).

5) CUC has never released all the statistics needed upon which to base factual conclusions in one place at one time (yet some of our legislators continually take such espousals at face value and react with inane, ridiculous statements and laws that make no sense).

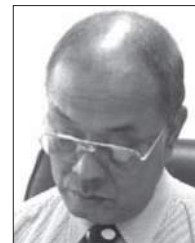
6) CUC has failed miserably (and declined to answer) at releasing data as to how many kWh were produced at the plant versus how many kWh were billed to consumers or measured at the end of transmission (consumer's meters) as well as other needed facts about their operation.

7) SDLLC (in their advertisement) claims that "drastic" improvements allow the production of 20 kWh per gallon of fuel, thus reducing the fuel used and thereby "saving" the dollars spent for fuel.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

**Diskalentau Na Lugat**

Gi lemlim tautau, hu tutuhon tumulusyu' para bai' diñgu i lugat nos pot mañan kubatde lau pot respetu gi haf' masañganeghu ni man-amku' pot lugat man-mofona.

Hu sisiente ha' 'nai sige manachu pilun kanai yan agagahu. Lau hu atosga umusune mamokat para i karetahu sa' buente esta oran niha man-peska. Man-gagauyu' dispensu pot atrasau ñaihon kare- rahu huyuñg. Felis dispues todú hinanauhu para iya hame.

Hu aksepta na i espiñitun guelu yan guela lumililiku diariu gi ori- yata. Guaha ha' lugat niha 'nai debi ta suhaye deste lemlim tautau esta'i chatagmag gi oran 'las kuartu. Hu li'e haf' fuetsan espiñitu gi 1968 ya tihu nanañga na para bai' li'e talu. Metgot fuetsañga ya gi katkuet birada pinatañg hau sin ditension kulan dinagau atgidon.

Yangin guaha 'nai un' chage manaliliku' gi fihon karetamu, pues fan gagau asi'i ya gigon klaru inatan-mu, tulus hau ginen i lugat sa' esta hau man-estototba. Respetu parehu gi maseha lalala' 'sino mofona ke hita.

Lau taya' mas diskalentau na lugat ke hilu' plaset 'nai man- ma'gasta sige man-esalau haf' mauleg para hita gi hilu' man-lache siha na rason. Kulan huegon un' bachet ni pumipipet i otu bachet gi kantun kantit ni achacha taduñg todú atmos banda. Gigon lache, todas todú i dos. A' Saina!

Mampos malañgu hinemlu' natibu ya bes enkuando bai' chage man- ayuda gi este na patte pot guaha siha na chetnot gaige gi halom haga'ta, guaha ha' lokue' ginen modun linala'ta. Presisu na ta komprende este sa' para mona mampos guaguan i gaston hinemlu gi todus.

8) CUC's current production is about 14.27 kWh per gallon of fuel (*their* figures).

9) SDLLC also states that the \$70 million cost of the plant rises to \$190.8 million due to "financing" costs.

Here's why I believe CUC's own efficiency report is misleading or just plain fraudulent:

Some major questions arise as to the efficiency reported by CUC (14.27 kWh/Gal.): In the large community category (>10,000,000 kWh's per year in sales in community), the aggregate average fuel efficiency reported in fiscal year 1996 through fiscal year 2002 was on the order of 13.3 kWh per gallon. Additional studies may be appropriate to ascertain why CUC has been able to report an efficiency of 14.27 kWh per gallon while other (similar) large utilities are reporting efficiencies ranging from roughly 12.7 kWh per gallon up to 13.7 kWh per gallon maximum. Not a single plant in the U.S. reported as high an average efficiency as CUC! Both medium and small communities all have reported lesser kWh per gallon efficiencies (some as low as 9.3). Why is CUC reporting such a high efficiency in light of the fact that its high cost of operation, low revenue and the lack of any modern measuring standard in place indicate a much smaller rate?

According to several screening analyses done by several different agencies (see references below), the newest of the new "most efficient diesel generator systems" *may* increase the kWh's produced from a gallon of fuel up to a maximum of about 15.8 kWh per gallon. This indicates that CUC's current engines are already operating only 5 percent below the highest level possible (IF you can believe the figures tossed about by CUC). No known currently available engine will deliver the 20 kWh/gal. proposed by SDLLC under any circumstances.

Any proposed increase in efficiency is mandatorily presupposed by the necessary addition of the following elements: Microprocessor-based automated engine controls ("retrofits" are *not* commercially viable), switchgear automation upgrades, real-time economic dispatch, microprocessor-based protective relays and supervisory control and data acquisition systems (SCADA). Without any of these systems (especially the latter) installed at CUC a massive shadow looms eerily over *any* data reported by CUC.






Most reputable studies have concluded that the actual costs for completed automated control systems and their installation (including the time spent to dial-in and calibrate the system) are beyond the

See **FRANTIC** on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲ 84° ▼ 75°	▲ 84° ▼ 75°	▲ 84° ▼ 75°	▲ 84° ▼ 75°	▲ 84° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 61
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 81

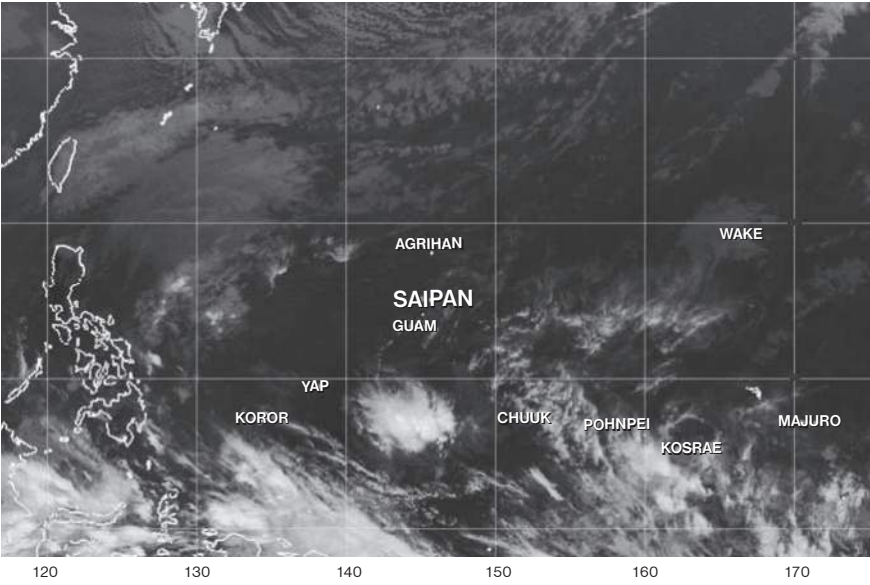
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 17
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 67
London	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 49
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 57
Miami	Showers	▲ 78 ▼ 67
New York	Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 34
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 35
Paris	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 31
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 38
Salem	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 39
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 41
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 27
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 40

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging surface winds near a trough of low pressure are creating scattered showers well northwest of Yap west of a line from 12N133E to 24N137E. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward from Mindanao through 5N130E passes south of Chuuk at 4N150E to end at EQ165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near this feature in three areas. The first area is south of Koror or south of a line from 1N130E to 6N135E to 1N144E. The second one is west of Chuuk between 5N and 8N from 141E to 150E. Finally, the third one is south of Pohnpei but near Kosrae south of a line from 4N152E to 6N166E. Converging trade winds near the eastern end of the trough are causing scattered showers over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls south of a line from 5N168E to 3N176E. A weak surface trough is producing scattered showers over Wake Island between 18N and 21N from 162E to 167E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:08 PM	7:08 AM
Tuesday	8:00 PM	7:49 AM
Wednesday	10:51 PM	8:30 AM
Thursday	9:43 PM	9:11 AM
Friday	10:37 PM	9:53 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5	UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily
UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily	UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily	UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily
UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily	UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7	DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN
OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6
OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN
MU7108 3:50am 7:00am 1, 5	MU7107 7:40pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN
XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5	XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT
UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM	UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3	UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM
	UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 17:50	18:20	Daily					
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

FRANTIC

From Page 11

SMALL incremental benefit for most plants on the order of the Saipan system—especially for a new system of the size proposed by SDLLC and the already ULTRA-high rate reported by CUC (www.aidea.org).

Here's why I believe SDLLC's figures are not only misleading but (also) just plain fraudulent:

In the 1920's, diesel generators had a peak efficiency of about 12.5 kWh per gallon. Today's most efficient new generators are capable of producing about 15.8 kWh per gallon. Thus, barely a 25 percent increase in efficiency in over 80 YEARS! (*Mann – 1924 to Detroit – 2010*) Now SDLLC wants us to believe they have increased the efficiency of today's *best* engines by 30 percent in only one year! Do you believe that?

SDLLC claims that the cost of the new plant is \$70 million but this is "inflated" by the cost of financing to \$190.8 million. A quote from Abe Malae on Oct. 4, 2012, indicated the cost of the new plant should be around \$50 million-\$60 million. USDOE currently estimates the cost of new diesel plants at \$1,284 per kW capacity (average). Thus a new 50 MW plant should cost no more than \$64 million.

What about that "financing" cost? Well, it turns out that SDLLC's quoted cost of \$70 million turning into \$190.8 million over 25 years is exactly a 10-percent interest rate. EXACTLY! SDLLC's quoted cost to CUC is \$636,091 per month. The interest cost alone for the first month is \$583,333.33. By the way, almost all reports found that the average life of these new diesel plants must be premised by a lifespan of 15 years (*not* 25). At the end of 15 years, most plants require extensive retrofitting, maintenance costs and upgrades—just about enough to justify yet another "new" plant—that is when *only* comparing diesel to diesel and not diesel to almost anything else.

CUC must still bear many of the costs of this new plant, most significant of which is fuel. A 50 MW plant operated at, say, 80 - 90 percent load will consume approximately 20 to 25 million gallons of fuel per year and at a cost of about \$96.3 million at today's prices. With the cost of fuel and the transportation required to bring it in expected to nearly double (conservative estimate) over the next 10 years, the cost of power will surely bloom as well. This may well result in a cost of nearly \$200 million per year (after 2023) for fuel alone—and that is only 85 percent of the total cost of operation (70 percent at CUC?). Therefore,

the 25-year "life" total cost of this plant will likely approach *four and one-half billion dollars*—all that based on an ever decreasing population of only around 50,000 persons. Absurd in the extreme! That's over \$3,600 per year per person or about \$300 *per month per person* (average). At the current level of CNMI per capita income of \$6,178 per year (2005, down from over \$8,000 in 2000), that usage represents over 58 percent of a family's total (gross) income. Since the "average" family on Saipan consists of 3 to 4 persons (3.44 in 2010), the family's cost for power could be as much as \$1,200 or more per month per average household by 2025—a mere halfway through this really dubious contract. It is strategically impossible for a family to endure these conditions. One need only look at the rapid obliteration of the CNMI's population to understand why.

One more "cost" factor to consider and to-date not even a mention by CUC or SDLLC: The environment and EPA's control over it. Any new installation (including major changes in the current plant) *must* by law comply with all EPA Clean Air and Water acts. This includes the current CUC site if the old plant is deconstructed (even if the old site is not used for anything). A vague estimate for the EPA's required cleanup at CUC is between \$30 million to \$40 million and possibly much more (There *are* specific rules for deconstruction). The new plants' future EPA cost of compliance during and after construction for such things as pollutant scrubbers and new CO2 emission controls may add as much as yet another \$25 million to its cost—all paid for by YOU! Mr. Young last week (in court) grossly underestimated the "decommissioning" at \$3 million—but included construction cost for a new substation for \$9 million. There is still *no* consistency, justification or completeness with data thrown around by CUC officials but the "costs" continue to mount as ever more of them are revealed at a pace akin to that of molasses in January.

Almost no independent cost/benefit or market analysis has been done (or published) on the feasibility or viability of a new diesel power plant for the CNMI. Only the sketchiest and piecemeal of figures come from CUC and only prejudicially flawed figures are coming from the nebulously self-interested SDLLC.

The recent release (paid advertisement) by SDLLC appears to me to be nothing short of "frantic fanaticism" coming from a group of incorrigibles clinging to their own grandeur in disbelief as report after report debunks their wild schemes and whom we shall

henceforth refer to as "super-scammers" bent on once again fooling the masses with silver-lined tongues spouting a glorious ascension to "relief." Super-scammers that I believe must include the likes of Fitial, Buckingham, Mahmood, Osborne and Kurz who run a close second only to Abramoff, DeLay, Little, Pegasus, Mercorella and Madoff—but on a "Saipan-scale."

Fitial is, meanwhile, spouting his contriteness over past misdeeds in a last-ditch effort to avoid certain impeachment while his forever Cheshire cat-faced face continues to adorn the pages of infamy; attempting to distance himself (by mouthpiece while escaping from reporters because "they could not catch me") from all things corrupt or disingenuous while still playing on what he sees as the inexorable gullibility of the good citizens of the CNMI. Well, I don't think these citizens are going to be quite so gullible as before.

Please note that this letter barely scratches the surface of the more detailed and complete report needed to ascertain the viability of a new diesel plant. Much more research must be undertaken if one is to reach a possibly more precise conclusion.

There are many more attractive "bridge" power sources to the future for the CNMI; more economical, efficient, suitable, safe and in every way more desirable for the CNMI. A couple of the best (for now) include natural gas and small nuclear. I believe the awakening people will eventually relegate the previously classified "super-scammers" to the trash heap of history; and may the future hold a better thought-out prospectus for energy efficiency and cost relief.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.
Winter Haven, FL

REFERENCES:

USDOE reports (2011-2012), Generac, AVEC (Alaska Village Electric Co-op), Hardy Diesel, APT (Alaska Power and Telephone), RADIXPE, Tanana Power Company, Inc., Wikipedia, Precision Power Inc., U.S. State Dept. (2005 CNMI HIES report), Various *MV*ariety and *Tribune* articles, AK Energy Authority, ASME International Proceedings – 2002, EPA, Alaska Industrial Development and Authority, Edinenergy.org

Note: Alaskan power groups are predominantly cited in this letter because they have a deep penchant for utilizing independent assessment and reporting agencies regarding their status and Alaska has many power companies that operate significantly close to the same parameters and conditions as CUC, unlike most of those in the other 48 states and Hawaii.

L O C A L

Discounted Zumba rates at NMC

The Northern Marianas College, through the Community Development Institute, is offering discounted rates for individuals who wish to take a short-term Zumba Fitness Course that begins Feb. 4, 2013.

Zumba is a popular fitness program inspired by Latin dance. The dance workout has been internationally marketed as "an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party." Zumba consists of various aerobic exercises that also tone and sculpt the body.

There are many different types of Zumba Courses available nationwide. There are Zumba Toning, Zumba Gold, Aqua Zumba, and many more. This specific Zumba course offered at NMC As Terlaje campus is the Zumba Fitness Basic Level 1 Course for beginners (ages 16 years and older).

The Zumba Fitness Course will begin on Feb. 4, 2013, Monday, and will continue every

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until the last day on March 11, 2013. The schedule is 5pm to 6pm at the NMC Recreation Gym, As Terlaje campus.

For those who are not familiar with Zumba, the college is offering two free classes so individuals can experience the workout without any cost. The free Zumba class sessions will be offered on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, from 5pm to 7pm and Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013, from 5pm to 7pm.

A discount is being offered to allow participants who refer a friend to receive a 50-percent discount (for participant and friend) half off the original fee of the course of \$160. If the discount coupon is applied, the total cost for the course will be reduced to \$80 per individual, which equates to \$5 per class session. This coupon deal discount is good for one time usage, or a maximum of one referral.

The college is also giving out a special New Year's discount offer to the public. A \$20 dis-

count off the regular price of the total fee for Zumba course (\$160) will be given to the first 15 participants who sign up for the course and complete the registration process at CDI. The coupon deal stated earlier, could then be applied too after using this special New Year's discount offer.

These courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational, professional development instruction, as well as personal enrichment opportunities in response to community needs.

It is recommended that all interested individuals register before the start of the first day of class. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register, or for information about this course, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 Ext. 1005/1010/1019 or e-mail Orrin Pharin at orrip@nmcnet.edu. (**NMC**)

**CUSTOMER SERVICE WORKSHOP**

Division of Youth Services staff members take time for a group photo with Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute representatives after being awarded their certificates of completion for their participation in a customer service workshop facilitated by NMC Business Department chair Chavel Green, seated first from left.

After-school ukulele class on Thursdays

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, in partnership with instructor Larry Lee, is bringing back its popular after-school ukulele classes every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm, beginning Feb. 7 until March 28, 2013.

Two types of lessons will be taught, Beginner and Intermediate. Students who passed second level of Lee's previous ukulele class will be able to register for the Intermediate class, while new students or those who wants to refresh their ukulele skills can register for the Beginners class.

■ Minimum age requirement: Open to children 8 years or older and adults.

■ Tuition: \$50 (for eight Thursdays). Advance registration and payment is required

■ Venue: Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Children of Our Homeland Center, Susupe

■ Minimum enrollment: 15 students

■ Maximum enrollment: 40 students

■ Based on first come, first paid/served

Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to

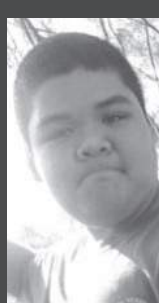
hold music sheets (Plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Lee will also be selling ukuleles. In addition, JKPL will loan ukuleles, but during class lessons only.

Parents/guardians must fill a Liability Waiver Form on behalf of their participating children or adults for themselves and must adhere to all public library policies and procedures.

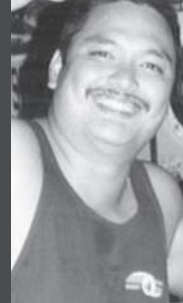
For more information, visit your Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322-23, fax 235-7550. (**JKPL**)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday Deion Xavier! Love and miss you. Greetings come from Boboy Calvo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Papa Ton! May this be your right Formula 44 day! With many hugs and kisses from Mel and the kids. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to the greatest husband, father and grandfather, Ton Dela Cruz! Best wishes



and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you. Greetings coming out from your wife, children and grandchildren. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Europe's emigrants face red tape in Latin America

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Geologist David Rodriguez and actress Cristina Pascual, two of the nearly six million Spaniards left jobless in the European recession, fled to Latin America last year, figuring their futures would be brighter in the booming economies on this side of the Atlantic.

Instead, they found themselves stuck, facing so many bureaucratic hurdles that their only option was to work illegally, for much lower wages. Without a work visa, they couldn't get a formal job. Without a job offer, no visa. And without a job and a visa, they had no way of securing an all-important tax-identification number, freezing them out of Chile's booming formal economy. Trying to bend the rules can result in deportation for the worker, and fines for the company.

Rodriguez and Pascual are among the many migrants watching this weekend as leaders from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean seek ways of eliminating the red tape that has made it so difficult for foreigners to bring their skills across borders. The vast majority of migrants between the continents used to travel to Europe, but the trends flipped after 2010, when economic indicators began to improve in Spain and Portugal's former colonies. Now Spanish and Portuguese workers are arriving by the thousands each year, entering on tourist visas and job-hunting in Brazil, Chile,



Maria Moreira, who immigrated to Chile from Spain, poses for a portrait in Santiago, Chile, Friday, Jan. 25, 2013.

Mexico and Argentina. Spanish migrants with skills needed in the mining industry are particularly sought after in Chile.

But the bureaucracy is getting in the way.

Rodriguez, 32, graduated from college in Spain in 2010, and spent the next 28 months in a frustrating search for work in his field while he lived with his parents. Then a friend, architect Maria Moreira, posted a Facebook message saying she was migrating to Chile. He jumped at the chance to come along, but soon found himself stuck without authorization to work. Despite high demand for exactly the skills he could offer,

it took four months of rejections before he found a low-paid internship that eventually led to a company's sponsorship for his paperwork.

Spain's national statistics service said more than 40,000 Spaniards abandoned the country in search of work during the first six months of last year, up sharply from the 28,000 during the same period in 2011. The same agency said this week that unemployment has reached a record 26 percent in Spain.

Reducing roadblocks is urgent for the leaders at this summit. The IMF forecasts the Latin American and Caribbean economies to grow 3.6 percent

this year even as Europe retreats 0.2 percent. The continents' economies are inexorably tied to each other, with EU countries representing 43 percent of Latin America's international trade. Making it easier for workers to move to where the jobs are can help all these countries, in part by increasing the remittances people send home to their families.

Chile isn't unique in the demands it places on foreign workers. Brazil and Argentina are famous for their red tape, and lacking EU citizenship, many Latin Americans haven't been welcomed into Europe's job market, either.

The summit agenda includes fostering "best practices" for lowering barriers to work. One example: representatives of 400 universities on both sides of the Atlantic met in Santiago this week to create a "common space for higher education," with the goal of standardizing the degrees and certifications awarded throughout both regions.

The agenda also advocates equal treatment for citizens of all nations, a sore point in the former colonies of Europe. While EU citizens can enter any country in the region on tourist visas, Latin Americans have been humiliated in Europe's airports, interrogated and sent home even though they said they complied with the entry rules.

"Welcome to a better world," is how Chile's President Sebas-

tian Pinera greeted his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy, a tongue-in-cheek phrase that resonates on all sorts of levels for travelers between both regions.

Rodriguez and Pascual can testify that their welcome was difficult at best during their first months in Chile.

Without formal work and a visa, they couldn't get the Chilean identity numbers known as RUTs, which are vital for all aspects of life. Without a RUT, you can't get a telephone line, buy a cell phone, obtain a credit card, open a bank account, or make hundreds of other transactions in Chile.

Pascual, a 38-year-old actress, spent five months in low-paid, under-the-table jobs before she got help from the Spanish embassy, where she now works as a cultural representative.

Obama birth control mandates loosens lawsuits

NEW YORK (AP)—The legal challenges over religious freedom and the birth control coverage requirement in President Barack Obama's health care overhaul appear to be moving toward the U.S. Supreme Court.

Faith-affiliated charities, hospitals and universities have filed dozens of lawsuits against the mandate, which requires employers to provide insurance that covers contraception for free. However, many for-profit business owners are also suing, claiming a violation of their religious beliefs.

The religious lawsuits have largely stalled, as the Department of Health and Human Services tries to develop an accommodation for faith groups. However, no such offer will be made to individual business owners. And their lawsuits are yielding conflicting rulings in appeals courts around the country.

"The circuits have split. You're getting different, conflicting interpretations of law, so the line of cases will have to go to the Supreme Court," said Carl Esbeck, a professor at the University of Missouri Law School who specializes in religious liberty issues.

Last year, the Supreme Court ruled that Obama's fiercely contested health care overhaul, known as the Affordable Care Act, was constitutional. But differences over the birth control provision in the law have yet to be resolved.

Under the requirement, most employers, including faith-affiliated hospitals and nonprofits, have to provide health insurance that includes artificial contraception, including sterilization, as a free preventive service. The goal, in part, is to help women space pregnancies as a way to promote health.

Religious groups who employ and serve people of their own faith—such as churches—are exempt. But other religiously affiliated groups, such as Catholic Charities, must comply.

Roman Catholic bishops, evangelicals and some religious leaders who have generally been supportive of Obama's policies have lobbied fiercely for a broader exemption. The Catholic Church prohibits the use of artificial contraception. Evangelicals generally permit the use of birth control, but they object to specific methods such as the morning-after contraceptive pill, which they argue is tantamount to abortion.

Obama promised to change the birth control requirement so insurance companies and not faith-affiliated employers would pay for the coverage, but religious leaders said more changes were needed to make the plan work.

The Health and Human Services Department said it could not comment on litigation. A spokeswoman also did not respond to a question about when the latest revisions in the birth control rule would be made public.

Davos summit ends with warnings on global economy

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The crisis mood is gone, but that doesn't mean you can slip back into your old ways—that's the message from top international finance officials wrapping up the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

They warned governments Saturday against letting their relief over an improved economic climate turn into complacency over reforms many want to see in order to sustain a still-uncertain recovery.

"Do not relax," International Monetary Fund head Christine Lagarde urged at a closing panel on the economic outlook.

She said the IMF outlook for a "fragile and timid" recovery depended on officials in the powerhouse economies of Europe, the U.S. and Japan making "the right decisions."

Her comments came at the end of the gathering of 2,500 business, financial and political leaders that took place in a more upbeat atmosphere than last year.

Fears over the breakup the euro currency union have abated, while the U.S. has avoided the so-called "fiscal cliff" of automatic tax increases and spending cuts that threatened to push the world's largest economy back into recession.

With those bullets dodged, there are fears that governments may ease up on the measures to improve growth and reduce debt that many institutions such as the IMF are calling for.

The IMF estimates that the world economy will grow about 3.5 percent this year, modestly better than last year's 3.2 percent. Yet the improvement is uneven. The eurozone and Ja-

pan are in recession, but the U.S. is growing, and emerging economies such as China are expanding much more quickly.

The developed world is still recovering from the shock of the financial crisis, which began in 2007 when U.S. banks revealed heavy losses related to mortgages handed out to people with shaky credit. With banks around the world teetering, the world economy slid into deepest recession since World War II and the recovery since has been unspectacular.

Like last year, Europe and specifically the debt problems of the 17 European Union countries that use the euro, was a key focus in Davos.

Lagarde said officials in Europe have to see through reforms to prevent failed banks from adding to government debt through bailouts. Progress

towards a "banking union" that would impose tougher, centralized supervision of banks to ward off failures and bailouts has been slow.

Lagarde said the eurozone was still in "a very fragile situation" that was made more risky through a slow decision-making process and occasional backtracking on initiatives.

In addition, she said U.S. has to sort out its budget dispute between Congress and President Barack Obama. Up against a New Year's deadline, the two sides put off much of their dispute for a few months. "Good decisions have been made," she said. "Sometimes at the last minute, as in the United States, sometimes laborious and confusingly as in the eurozone," she said. "In 2013 they have to keep up the momentum."



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hackers take over sentencing commission website

WASHINGTON (AP)—The hacker-activist group Anonymous says it hijacked the website of the U.S. Sentencing Commis-

sion to avenge the death of Aaron Swartz, an Internet activist who committed suicide. The FBI is investigating. The website of the commission, an independent agency of the judicial branch, was taken over early Saturday

and replaced with a message warning that when Swartz killed himself two weeks ago "a line was crossed." The hackers say they've infiltrated several government computer systems and copied secret information that they now

threaten to make public.

Thousands of Portuguese teachers protest big cut

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Thousands of teachers from

around Portugal are marching in downtown Lisbon to protest proposed spending cuts they say will slash (EURO)1 billion (\$1.3 billion) from the education budget. Unions say the government plans to privatize many public schools

and cut around 50,000 sector jobs. Union spokesman Mario Nogueira says the plans revealed in a recent document from the International Monetary Fund would "mean the end of a free and inclusive public school system."

Nation

Democrats may stand in Obama's way on gun measures

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the Senate prepares to begin debating new gun control measures, some of President Barack Obama's fellow Democrats are poised to frustrate his efforts to enact the most sweeping limits on weapons in decades.

These Democrats from largely rural states with strong gun cultures view Obama's proposals warily and have not committed to supporting them. The lawmakers' concerns could stand in the way of strong legislation before a single Republican gets a chance to vote "no."

"There's a core group of Democratic senators, most but not all from the West, who represent states with a higher-than-average rate of gun ownership but an equally strong desire to feel their kids are safe," said Mark Glaze, director of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. "They're having hard but good conversations with people back home to identify the middle-ground solutions that respect the Second Amendment but make it harder for dangerous people to get their hands on guns."

All eyes are on these dozen or so Democrats, some of whom face re-election in 2014. That includes Sens. Max Baucus of Montana, Mark Begich of Alaska and Mark Pryor of Arkansas.

The Senate Judiciary Committee begins hearings Wednesday.

Interest groups, lobbyists, lawmakers, crime victims and others with a stake in the outcome will be watching these senators closely for signals about what measures they might support. The answers will say a lot about what, if anything, Congress can pass in the wake of the shootings of 20 school and six adults at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., last month.

At issue are Obama's proposals to ban assault weapons, limit ammunition magazines, crack down on trafficking and require univer-



People walk from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, during a march on Washington for gun control.

sal background checks. Leading the charge against those ideas is the National Rifle Association. The group wields enormous power to rally public sentiment and is a particular threat to Democrats in pro-gun states who face re-election.

The political concerns of Democrats create problems for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who has his own history with the NRA.

The powerful gun lobby endorsed him in previous elections, but stayed neutral in his most recent race, in 2010. Even before Obama announced the gun proposals this month, Reid told a Nevada PBS station that an assault weapons ban would have a hard time getting through Congress. That comment irked Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., author of such a ban.

"Clearly it wasn't helpful," she said this past week in reintroducing her measure. But Feinstein's original assault weapons ban was a stern political lesson for Reid and other Democrats. Its passage as part of President Bill Clinton's crime bill in 1994 was blamed for

Democratic election losses that year after the NRA campaigned against lawmakers who supported the legislation. When the assault weapons ban came up for renewal in 2004, Congress, under pressure from the NRA, refused to extend it.

Reid has pledged action on gun measures. "This is an issue we're not going to run from," he said. But he's under pressure from all sides.

Some major pieces of legislation are shepherded by the Senate leadership to the Senate floor. But Reid is promising that the gun bills will go through the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman is Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a gun owner and Second Amendment supporter.

Reid also is promising an open amendment process, potentially a lengthy endeavor. Those signals have some gun control activists concerned that the process will go so slowly that it will grind to a halt without action. Some question whether that's just the outcome desired by some moderate Democrats.

"I'm concerned just because

Harry Reid has a mixed record on these things and we want him to be a champion," said Josh Horwitz, executive director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

On the other side, the NRA, known for rewarding friends and punishing enemies, promises it will be closely watching Reid, too.

"He's going to be torn and a lot of people are going to be torn, particularly Democrats, but I think as the debate goes on he'll do more good than bad from our perspective," said David Keene, NRA president. "All this stuff has been debated before and once you get into a debate and a discussion and say will this do anything to protect children, to prevent another Newtown, I think the answer is going to come out 'no.'"

Baucus, Begich, Pryor and others have been cautious in their comments on Obama's gun proposals.

Baucus called for "a thoughtful debate." Begich told his home state Fairbanks Daily News-Miner that passage of any element of the package was "a long haul. ... There are some of us who just fundamentally believe in a Sec-

ond Amendment right." Pryor has told Arkansas media that efforts on gun safety should start with enforcing existing laws.

Another Democrat closely watching the issue is Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, known for a 2010 campaign ad where he fired a rifle shot though a copy of Democratic-written climate change legisla-

tion. Manchin recently told a West Virginia radio station that he's working on legislation to require background checks on most gun purchases. Details weren't clear but that's the area where advocates are most hopeful of finding a solution that could get through the Senate and possibly even the Republican-controlled House.

OBAMA:

Gun-control advocates have to listen more

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says gun-control advocates have to do a little more listening than they do sometimes in the debate over firearms in America.

In an interview with The New Republic, Obama says he has "a profound respect" for the tradition of hunting that dates back for generations.

"And I think those who dismiss that out of hand make a big mistake. Part of being able to move this forward is understanding the reality of guns in urban areas are very different from the realities of guns in rural areas," he says.

Obama has called for a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and is pushing other policies following the mass shooting last month at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. In response, gun-rights advocates have ac-

cused Obama and others of ignoring the Second Amendment rights of Americans.

The president says it's understandable that people are protective of their family traditions when it comes to hunting.

"So it's trying to bridge those gaps that I think is going to be part of the biggest task over the next several months. And that means that advocates of gun control have to do a little more listening than they do sometimes," he says.

Has Obama himself ever fired a gun?

"Yes," the president says, "in fact, up at Camp David, we do skeet shooting all the time."

His daughters don't shoot skeet at the presidential retreat in Maryland, he adds, "but oftentimes guests of mine go up there."

The interview appears in the Feb. 11 issue of The New Republic.



ACROSS THE NATION

Obama not sure he'd allow a son to play football

WASHINGTON (AP)—Football's first fan isn't sure he'd let his son play the game, in light of the impact it takes on its players. "I'm a big football fan, but I have to tell you, if I had a son, I'd have to think long and hard before I let him play football," President Barack Obama tells The New Republic. "And I think that those of us who love the sport are going to have to wrestle with the fact that it will probably change gradually to try to reduce some of the violence," Obama said. "In some cases, that may make it a little bit less exciting, but it will be a whole lot better for the players, and those of us who are fans maybe won't have to examine our consciences quite as much."

1 officer killed, 2 wounded near La. casino

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Police on Saturday arrested a man suspected of fatally shooting a police officer and critically wounding two sheriff's deputies after allegedly setting fire to a mobile home in south Loui-

siana, where an elderly man's body was found. A Chitimacha tribal officer was pronounced dead at the scene of the shootings in Charenton, while two St. Mary Parish sheriff's deputies were critically wounded and taken to local hospitals, said Louisiana State Police Trooper Stephen Hammons. Hammons said the officers were responding to a report of an armed man walking down a road near the Cypress Bayou Casino when Wilbert Thibodeaux, 48, of Charenton allegedly shot them.

NYPD steps up security after string of attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly is stepping up security in East Harlem after a string of violent robberies targeting people of Asian descent. Police say a man has attacked seven people of Asian descent in the neighborhood since Jan. 17. Police say the suspect follows his victims into elevators and assaults them repeatedly by punching them in the face and head before robbing them. City leaders in the Asian community held a rally Saturday to condemn the violence.

Casey Anthony files for bankruptcy in Florida

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Casey Anthony filed for bankruptcy in Florida on Friday, claiming about \$1,100 in assets and \$792,000 in liabilities. Court records show that Anthony, who was acquitted of killing her 2-year-old daughter Caylee in 2011, sought Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in federal court in Tampa.

Her listed debts include \$500,000 for attorney fees and costs for her criminal defense lawyer during the trial, Jose Baez; \$145,660 for the Orange County Sheriff's office for a judgment covering investigative fees and costs related to the case; \$68,540 for the Internal Revenue Service for taxes, interest and penalties; and \$61,505 for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for court costs.

The filing also states that she is a defendant in several civil suits, including one brought by Zenaida Fernandez-Gonzalez for defamation in Orange County Circuit Court.

Fernandez-Gonzalez claims her reputation was damaged by Anthony telling detectives that a baby sitter by the same name kidnapped Caylee. The detectives were investigating the 2008 disappearance of the girl, who later was found dead. Anthony's attorney said details offered by Anthony did not match Fernandez-Gonzalez and clearly showed Anthony wasn't talking about her.

Court papers list Anthony as unemployed, with no recent income.

An attorney for Anthony, Da-

vid Schrader, did not immediately respond to messages from the Associated Press.

Anthony lists about 80 creditors in the 60-page court filing. The claims largely cover fees for legal, medical, psychiatric and forensics consulting or services. But one claim covers a debt for scuba diving services.

According to the courts, the aim of seeking Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection is to be discharged of most existing debts—essentially to obtain a fresh financial start. A trustee may have the right to take possession of and sell non-exempt property and use the sale proceeds to pay creditors, but Anthony lists little in the way of assets. A debtor may still be held responsible for some

obligations, such as taxes and student loans.

The filing came on the same day that a Florida appellate court set aside two of the four convictions she faced for lying to detectives during the investigation into her missing daughter.

Though Anthony was acquitted of killing Caylee, jurors convicted her of four counts of lying to detectives, and her attorneys appealed those convictions. Anthony was sentenced to time served for the misdemeanors.

She was sentenced to a year of probation after her release from jail for an unrelated case. For her protection, her whereabouts have been kept secret since she was released from state supervision last year.

Asia

North Korean leader vows strong action

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un convened top security and foreign affairs officials and ordered them to take “substantial and high-profile important state measures,” state media said Sunday, indicating that he plans to push forward with a threat to explode a nuclear device in defiance of the United Nations.

The meeting of top officials led by Kim makes clear that he backs Pyongyang’s defiant stance in protest of

U.N. Security Council punishment for a December rocket launch. The dispatch in the official Korean Central News Agency did not say when the meeting took place.

Last week, the Security Council condemned North Korea’s Dec. 12 launch of a long-range rocket as a violation of a ban against nuclear and missile activity. The council, including North Korea ally China, punished Pyongyang with more sanctions and ordered the regime to refrain

from a nuclear test—or face “significant action.”

North Korea responded by rejecting the resolution and maintaining its right to launch a satellite into orbit as part of a peaceful civilian space program.

It also warned that it would keep developing rockets and testing nuclear devices to counter what it sees as U.S. hostility. A rare statement was issued Thursday by the powerful National Defense Commission, the top governing body led by Kim.



AP
In this Dec. 21, 2012 file image made from video, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks at a banquet for rocket scientists in Pyongyang, North Korea.

PH accuses China of chasing fishing boats

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on Saturday accused Chinese vessels of preventing Filipino fishing boats from seeking shelter at a disputed South China Sea shoal in new incidents that he said prompted his government to elevate the case to international arbitration.

Aquino told reporters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos that the incidents took place recently at

the Scarborough Shoal near the western coast of the northern Philippines. He said in one incident Chinese vessels got within 10 meters (yards) of two fishing boats and sounded their horns at full blast, and on another occasion two other Philippine boats were ordered out of the shoal despite bad weather.

Aquino quoted the fishermen’s account given to Philippine authorities.

The Chinese government did

not immediately comment late Saturday.

Aquino, who was heading back to Manila from Davos, said the latest incidents in the South China Sea led his government to formally notify Beijing this week that it was bringing the countries’ dispute to a tribunal operating under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. It wants the panel to declare Beijing’s moves in the potentially oil-rich waters unlawful.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Roadside bomb kills 10 in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A police truck packed with officers and detainees struck a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan’s largest city, killing 10 of those aboard, officials said Sunday. It was the fourth deadly bombing on a day that left at least 24 people dead across the country. The Kandahar city police had driven out into a residential neighborhood of the city late Saturday to inspect a bomb that had been found there, said Javid Faisal, a spokesman for the provincial government. They detained three suspects and were driving back with them in a police pickup truck when the vehicle struck another explosive buried in the road. Eight police officers and two detainees were killed in the blast.

Gunmen kill 9 police, villagers in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen hiding in a sugarcane field ambushed a truckload of policemen and village guards who had helped secure a village dance festival, killing nine and wounding

nine others Sunday in the central Philippines, officials said. About 20 gunmen raked the victims’ truck with automatic weapon fire before dawn in the foothills of Mount Kanlaon in Negros Occidental province, firing nearly 300 rounds of ammunition. One police officer was among those killed and two others were wounded, provincial police Chief Celestino Guara said.

Landslides leaves 9 dead, 17 missing in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Two separate landslides triggered by torrential rain in western Indonesia have killed at least nine people, including four geothermal workers, and left 17 others missing, officials said Sunday. Disaster official Ade Edward said 20 houses were buried by mud and rocks that fell from surrounding hills at dawn Sunday in Tanjung Sani village in West Sumatra province’s Agam district. Rescuers recovered five bodies and were searching for 17 people who reportedly were buried under the mud, he said. Three injured villagers were being treated at a hospital.

World

Egyptians riot after soccer fans sentenced to die

CAIRO (AP)—Relatives and angry young men rampaged through the Egyptian city of Port Said on Saturday in assaults that killed at least 27 people following death sentences for local fans involved in the country’s worst bout of soccer violence.

Unrest surrounding the second anniversary of Egypt’s revolution also broke out in Cairo and other cities for a third day, with protesters clashing for hours with riot police who fired tear gas that encompassed swaths of the capital’s downtown.

The divisive verdict and bloodshed highlight challenges being faced by President Mohammed Morsi, who took office seven months ago following an Egyptian revolution that ousted autocratic leader Hosni

Mubarak. Critics say Morsi has failed to carry out promised reforms in the country’s judiciary and police force, and claim little has improved in the two years after the uprising against Mubarak.

The Islamist leader, Egypt’s first freely elected and civilian president, met for the first time with top generals as part of the newly formed National Defense Council to discuss the deployment of troops in two cities. The military was deployed to Port Said hours after the verdict was announced, and warned that a curfew could be declared in areas of unrest. The military was also deployed to the canal city of Suez, where protesters attacked the main security compound there after eight people were killed late Friday.

Saturday’s riot in Port Said stemmed from animosity between police and die-hard soccer fans know as Ultras, who also were part of the mass uprising against Mubarak that began on Jan. 25, 2011, and at forefront of protests against the military rulers who assumed temporary power after his ouster.

It also reflected tensions after the uprising that reached into all sectors of Egyptian life, even sports.

Survivors and witnesses said Mubarak loyalists had a hand in instigating last year’s attack, which began Feb. 1 after Port Said’s home team Al-Masry won a match, 3-1, against Cairo’s Al-Ahly. Some say “hired thugs” wearing green T-shirts posing as Al-Masry fans led the attacks.

French, Mali forces retake airport in city of Gao

KONNA, Mali (AP)—French and Malian troops regained control of the airport and bridge of the crucial, northern city of Gao on Saturday, marking their biggest advance yet in their bid to oust al-Qaida-linked extremists who have controlled northern Mali for months, military officials said.

The move comes just two weeks after France launched its military offensive in support of the shaky, central government of this former French colony. It is unclear what kind of resistance French and Malian troops will face in the coming days.

The French military said in a statement on its website that their special forces, which had stormed in by land and by air, had come under fire from “several terrorist elements” that

were later “destroyed.”

In a later press release entitled “French and Malian troops liberate Gao” the French ministry of defense said they were bringing back the town’s mayor, Sadou Diallo, who had fled to the Malian capital of Bamako far to the west.

However, a city official interviewed by telephone by The Associated Press said coalition forces so far only controlled the airport, the bridge and surrounding neighborhoods.

And in Paris, a defense ministry official clarified that the city had not been fully liberated, and that the process of freeing Gao was continuing.

Both officials spoke only on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Chavez starting more medical treatment in Cuba

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has defeated a respiratory infection and has begun additional medical treatment in Cuba after struggling with complications following cancer surgery more than six weeks ago, a government spokesman said Saturday.

Venezuelan Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said that it remains unclear how soon Chavez could return home, and did not specify the kind of treatment he is receiving.

“Vice President (Nicolas) Maduro estimates that the time it could take President Chavez to return is within weeks. But we haven’t wanted to fix an exact timeframe for the president’s recuperation,” Villegas told reporters on the sidelines of a 60-nation summit in Chile.

He read a statement that went beyond past government

reports in providing additional information about Chavez’s Dec. 11 surgery, but didn’t describe the newest treatment. While refusing to release many details about the president’s cancer, authorities in the past have reported on specific treatments, including radiation and chemotherapy.

“Forty-five days after carrying out a complex surgical intervention for the removal of a malignant lesion in the pelvis, with severe, acute complications, the patient’s general evolution is favorable,” Villegas said, reading the statement.

“At this time, the serious respiratory infection has been overcome, although a certain degree of respiratory deficiency persists and is being duly treated,” Villegas said.

After that improvement, Villegas said, “systemic medical treatment for the fundamental illness began to be applied as

a complement to the surgery.”

Villegas also criticized Spain’s leading newspaper El Pais, which was forced to reprint its Thursday edition after discovering that its front-page exclusive photograph supposedly showing an ailing Chavez being treated in Cuba was a fake.

The newspaper apologized to its readers for the mistake and said it was investigating how the photo made its way into the paper.

“But who has apologized to Chavez or his family?” Villegas said.

“In Venezuela we’ve seen a phenomenon where even the atheists are praying for Chavez,” he said. “In Uruguay, President Mujica, who’s not a believer, organized a Mass and prayed for Chavez.”

Chavez hasn’t appeared or spoken publicly since before the operation.

Focus

By **MAGGIE MICHAEL**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Libya's upheaval the past two years helped lead to the on-going conflict in Mali, and now Mali's war threatens to wash back and further hike Libya's instability. Fears are growing that post-Moammar Gadhafi Libya is becoming an incubator of turmoil, with an overflow of weapons and Islamic jihadi militants operating freely, ready for battlefields at home or abroad.

The possibility of a Mali backlash was underlined the past week when several European governments evacuated their citizens from Libya's second largest city, Benghazi, fearing attacks in retaliation for the French-led military assault against al-Qaida-linked extremists in northern Mali. More worrisome is the possibility that Islamic militants inspired by—or linked to—al-Qaida can establish a strong enough foothold in Libya to spread instability across a swath of North Africa where long, porous desert borders have little meaning, governments are weak, and tribal and ethnic networks stretch from country to country. The Associated Press examined the dangers in recent interviews with officials, tribal leaders and jihadis in various parts of Libya.

Already, Libya's turmoil echoes around the region and in the Middle East. The large numbers of weapons brought into Libya or seized from government caches during the 2011 civil war against Gadhafi are now smuggled freely to Mali, Egypt and its Sinai Peninsula, the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip and to rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad. Jihadis in Libya are believed to have operational links with fellow militant groups in the same swath, Libyan fighters have joined rebels in Syria and are believed to operate in other countries as well.

Libyan officials, activists and experts are increasingly raising alarm over how Islamic militants have taken advantage of the oil-rich country's weakness to grow in strength. During his more than four-decade rule Gadhafi stripped the country of national institutions, and after his fall the central government has little authority beyond the capital, Tripoli. Militias established to fight Gadhafi remain dominant, and tribes and regions are sharply divided.

In the eastern city of Benghazi, birthplace of the revolt that led to the ouster and killing of Gadhafi, militias espousing an al-Qaida ideology and including veteran fighters are prevalent, even ostensibly serving as security forces on behalf of the government since the police and military are so weak and poorly armed. One such militia, Ansar al-Shariah, is believed to have been behind the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. Consulate in the city that killed four Americans, including the ambassador. Since then, militants have been blamed for a wave of assassinations of security officers and government officials.

Earlier this month, former Libyan leader Mustafa Abdul-Jalil warned the militant threat extends to efforts to establish a state that can enforce rule of law.

"Libya will not see stability except by facing them," he told a gathering videotaped by activists and aired on Libyan TV. "It is time to either hold



In this Tuesday Feb. 14, 2012 file photo, Libyan militias from towns throughout the country's west parade through Tripoli, Libya.

Fears grow that Libya is incubator of turmoil

dialogue or confront them." He listed 30 officials and police officers assassinated in Benghazi the past year.

The Mali drama illustrates how the threat bounces back and forth across the borders drawn in the Sahel, the region stretching across the Sahara Desert. Libya and Mali are separated by Algeria, but the two countries had deep ties under Gadhafi. Thousands of Tuaregs moved from Mali to Libya beginning in the 1970s, and many joined special divisions of Gadhafi's military where they earned higher salaries than they would have at home.

As Gadhafi was falling in 2011, thousands of heavily armed Tuareg fighters in southern Libya fled to northern Mali. The Tuareg are an indigenous ethnic group living throughout the Sahel, from Mali to Chad and into Libya and Algeria.

The fighters, led by commander Mohammed Ag Najem, broke the Mali government's hold over the north and declared their long-held dream of a Tuareg homeland, Azawad. But they in turn were defeated by Islamic militants, some linked to al-Qaida's branch in North Africa, who took over the territory and imposed rule under an extreme version of Shariah, or Islamic law. This month, as militants moved south, France launched its military intervention to rescue the Mali government, conducting airstrikes against militants.

In retaliation, militants seized an oil complex in eastern Algeria, prompting a siege by Algerian forces that killed doz-

ens of Western hostages and militants.

The militant group that carried out the Algeria hostage taking, in turn, had help from Libyan extremists in the form of smuggled weapons and "organizational ties," the group's leader, Mokhtar Belmokhtar said.

"Their ideological and organizational connection to us is not an accusation against a Muslim but a source of pride and honor to us and to them," Belmokhtar, the one-eyed Algerian founder of the Masked Brigade, said of the Libyans in an interview with The Mauritanian newspaper in mid-December. "Jihadists in al-Qaida and in general were the biggest beneficiaries of the Arab world uprisings, because these uprisings have broken the chains of fear ... that the agent regimes of the West imposed."

He urged Libyan militants not to submit to calls by the Tripoli government to hand over their weapons, saying their arms are "the source of their dignity and their guarantee of security."

With pressure building on Mali's Islamists, Libya provides a possible alternative haven for jihadis, said Scott Stewart of the global intelligence group Stratfor.

"It is a very good place to operate if you are an extremist," he said. "There are fault lines and divisions ... The central government has very little authority outside Tripoli. This is very conducive environment for Jihad to thrive."

They already have a free rein in Benghazi.

"Libya became a heaven for them,"

Col. Salah Bouhalqa, a leading military commander in Benghazi, said of al-Qaida. "The Westerners are fearful that what happened in Algeria will take place in Libya. And here, just like Mali and Egypt and Iraq, these groups have extensions."

Some extremists say they are determined to shape the new Libya. Youssef Jihani, a member of Ansar Shariah in Benghazi, vowed that he and other jihadis would not accept a return to the days when they were jailed and executed under Gadhafi's rule. He told the AP in Benghazi late last year that the toppling of Gadhafi would not have been possible without the strength of jihadi fighters who he said joined the uprising to ensure an "Islamic state of Libya, where Shariah rule is implemented."

The bearded young man said he lay down his weapons last year. But he said he would take arms up again if Libya's next constitution doesn't make a clear reference to rule by Islamic law or if secular politicians hold power and try to rein in jihadis.

Jihani proudly said he believes in al-Qaida and supports its slain leader Osama bin Laden and Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar. He said that during Libya's civil war in 2011, he killed a captured soldier from Gadhafi's army after discovering 11 video clips on his mobile phone showing soldiers raping women and men. Jihani said he ordered the soldier to dig his own grave, then severed his head with a knife.

"I wish I could behead him 11

times," he said. His story could not be independently confirmed.

Stewart, of Stratfor, also pointed to a concern that al-Qaida could make inroads among Libya's impoverished and alienated Tuareg.

Living in mud-brick slums or camps in the deserts of southwestern Libya, most Tuaregs were never given citizenship under Gadhafi's rule, though he used their fighters as mercenaries, and now they suffer not only from poverty but from the disdain of Libyans who see them as Gadhafi loyalists.

For centuries, Tuareg ran caravan routes across the Sahara, carrying gold and other valuables. Now they're known for smuggling weapons and drugs. In slums around the towns of Sabha and Owbari, they sleep next to livestock in shacks with corrugated metal roofs, with webs of electric cables dangling from poles overhead and garbage-filled streets.

Libya's new leadership has largely shunned them. The Tuareg's four members in parliament were removed because of ties to Gadhafi's regime, leaving them without a political voice. The Tuareg contend they were exploited by Gadhafi, along with all other Libyans.

"Gadhafi's rule left behind a breeding ground for terrorism by depriving people of their rights and education After all the promises, we thought we will live in heaven, but kids here die from scorpion bites," said Suleiman Naaim, a Tuareg rights activist, told the AP in Owbari.

Health & Fitness

Do penalties for smokers and the obese make sense?

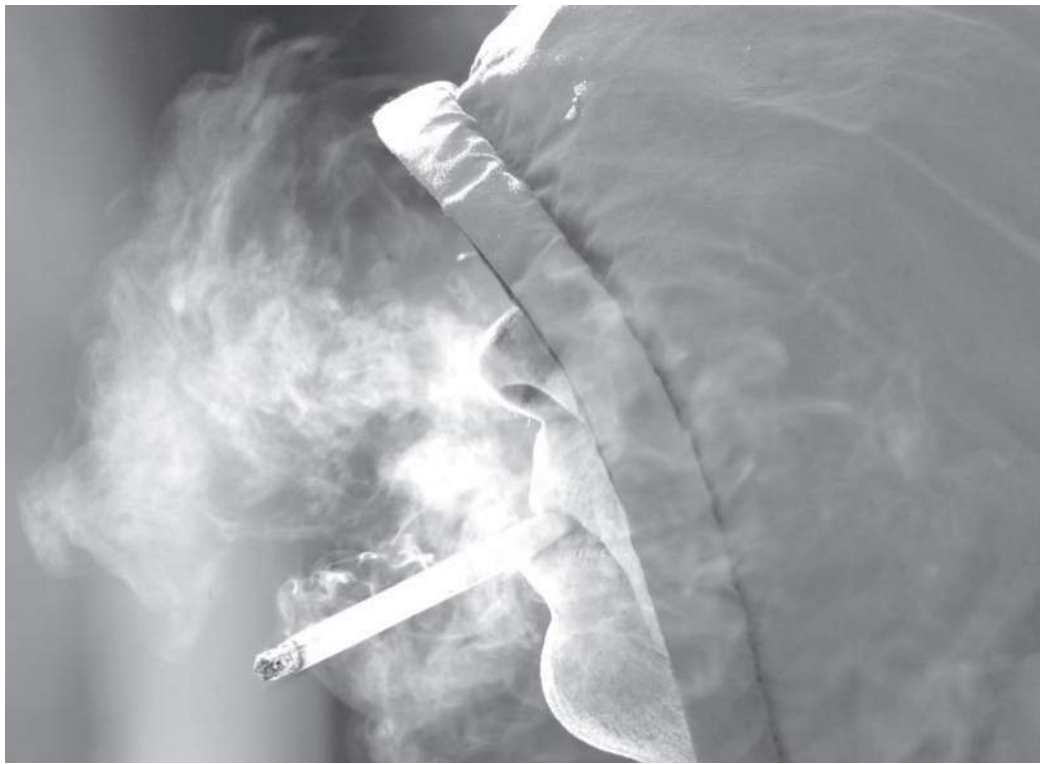
By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Faced with the high cost of caring for smokers and overeaters, experts say society must grapple with a blunt question: Instead of trying to penalize them and change their ways, why not just let these health sinners die prematurely from their unhealthy habits?

Annual health care costs are roughly \$96 billion for smokers and \$147 billion for the obese, the government says. These costs accompany sometimes heroic attempts to prolong lives, including surgery, chemotherapy and other measures.

But despite these rescue attempts, smokers tend to die 10 years earlier on average, and the obese die five to 12 years prematurely, according to various researchers' estimates.

And attempts to curb smoking and unhealthy eating frequently lead to backlash: Witness the current legal tussle over New York City's first-of-its-kind limits on



In this Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007 file photo, a man smokes in Omaha, Neb.

the size of sugary beverages and the vicious fight last year in California over a ballot proposal to add a \$1-per-pack cigarette tax,

which was ultimately defeated.

"This is my life. I should be able to do what I want," said Sebastian Lopez, a college student

from Queens, speaking last September when the New York City Board of Health approved the soda size rules.

Critics also contend that tobacco- and calorie-control measures place a disproportionately heavy burden on poor people. That's because they:

■ Smoke more than the rich,

and have higher obesity rates.

■ Have less money so sales taxes hit them harder. One study last year found poor, nicotine-dependent smokers in New York—a state with very high cigarette taxes—spent as much as a quarter of their entire income on smokes.

■ Are less likely to have a car to shop elsewhere if the corner bodega or convenience store stops stocking their vices.

Critics call these approaches unfair, and believe they have only a marginal effect. "Ultimately these things are weak tea," said Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a physician and fellow at the right-of-center think tank, the American Enterprise Institute.

Gottlieb's view is debatable. There are plenty of public health researchers that can show smoking control measures have brought down smoking rates and who will argue that smoking taxes are not regressive so long as money is earmarked for programs that help poor people quit smoking.

And debate they will. There always seems to be a fight whenever this kind of public health legislation comes up. And it's a fight that can go in all sorts of directions. For example, some studies even suggest that because smokers and obese people

die sooner, they may actually cost society less than healthy people who live much longer and develop chronic conditions like Alzheimer's disease.

So let's return to the original question: Why provoke a backlash? If 1 in 5 U.S. adults smoke, and 1 in 3 are obese, why not just get off their backs and let them go on with their (probably shortened) lives?

Because it's not just about them, say some health economists, bioethicists and public health researchers.

"Your freedom is likely to be someone else's harm," said Daniel Callahan, senior research scholar at a bioethics think-tank, the Hastings Center.

Smoking has the most obvious impact. Studies have increasingly shown harm to nonsmokers who are unlucky enough to work or live around heavy smokers. And several studies have shown heart attacks and asthma attack rates fell in counties or cities that adopted big smoking bans.

"When you ban smoking in public places, you're protecting everyone's health, including and especially the nonsmoker," said S. Jay Olshansky, a professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago's School of Public Health.

US hit by new stomach bug spreading around globe

NEW YORK (AP)—A new strain of stomach bug sweeping the globe is taking over in the U.S., health officials say.

Since September, more than 140 outbreaks in the U.S. have been caused by the new Sydney strain of norovirus. It may not be unusually dangerous; some scientists don't think it is. But it is different, and many people might not be able to fight off its gut-wrenching effects.

Clearly, it's having an impact. The new strain is making people sick in Japan, Western Europe, and other parts of the world. It was first identified last year in Australia and called the Sydney strain.

In the U.S., it is now accounting for about 60 percent of norovirus outbreaks, according to

ON THE NET
CDC report: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>

report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Norovirus—once known as Norwalk virus—is highly contagious and often spreads in places like schools, cruise ships and nursing homes, especially during the winter. Last month, 220 people on the Queen Mary II were stricken during a Caribbean cruise.

Sometimes mistakenly called stomach flu, the virus causes bouts of vomiting and diarrhea for a few days.

Every two or three years, a new strain evolves—the last was in 2009. The Sydney strain's appearance has coin-

cided with a spike in influenza, perhaps contributing to the perception that this is a particularly bad flu season in the U.S.

Ian Goodfellow, a prominent researcher at England's University of Cambridge, calls norovirus 'the Ferrari of viruses' for the speed at which it passes through a large group of people.

"It can sweep through an environment very, very quickly. You can be feeling quite fine one minute and within several hours suffer continuous vomiting and diarrhea," he said.

Health officials have grown better at detecting new strains and figuring out which one is the culprit. They now know that norovirus is also the most common cause of food poisoning in the U.S.

Women have caught up to men on lung cancer risk

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Smoke like a man, die like a man.

U.S. women who smoke today have a much greater risk of dying from lung cancer than they did decades ago, partly because they are starting younger and smoking more—that is, they are lighting up like men, new research shows.

Women also have caught up with men in their risk of dying from smoking-related illnesses. Lung cancer risk leveled off in the 1980s for men but is still rising for women.

"It's a massive failure in prevention," said one study leader, Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society. And it's likely to repeat itself in places like China and Indonesia where smoking is growing, he said.

About 1.3 billion people worldwide smoke.

The research is in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. It is one of the most comprehensive looks ever at long-term trends in the effects of smoking and includes the first generation of U.S. women who started early in life and continued for decades, long enough for health effects to show up.

The U.S. has more than 35 million smokers—about 20 percent of men and 18 percent of women. The percentage of people who smoke is far lower than it used to be; rates peaked around 1960 in men and two decades later in women.

Researchers wanted to know if smoking is still as deadly as it was in the 1980s, given that cigarettes have changed (less tar), many

smokers have quit, and treatments for many smoking-related diseases have improved.

They also wanted to know more about smoking and women. The famous surgeon general's report in 1964 said smoking could cause lung cancer in men, but evidence was lacking in women at the time since relatively few of them had smoked long enough.

One study, led by Dr. Prabhakar Jha of the Center for Global Health Research in Toronto, looked at about 217,000 Americans in federal health surveys between 1997 and 2004.

A second study, led by Thun, tracked smoking-related deaths through three periods—1959-65, 1982-88 and 2000-10—using seven large population health surveys covering more than 2.2 million people.

Personal Trainer

What makes seniors run

Master runners — people in their 60s or older — often have as much endurance as younger people with better cardiovascular fitness.

Theory: Masters have different muscle structure than the youngsters they run with

Researchers took biopsy samples from the gastrocnemius muscles of two groups

Eight masters (age 63 or older)



Eight young runners (average age 26)



The two groups were matched in their running ability

The groups compared

Cardio capacity (VO2max)
Masters' was 11 percent lower than young runners'

Muscle fiber type
Both groups had mostly Type 1 (slow twitch) and little Type 2 (fast twitch)

Enzymes related to muscle energy use
24 percent to 31 percent higher in the masters

Enzymes related to muscle fatigue
46 percent lower in masters

Conclusion: Masters have unusually efficient leg muscles, and that may give them their running ability

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
Source: Washington University School of Medicine Applied Physiology Section

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Life & Style

Disney says JJ Abrams to direct next 'Star Wars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's official. The force is with J.J. Abrams.

The Walt Disney Co. issued a statement Friday night confirming reports that had been circulating for two days that Abrams, Emmy-award-winning creator of TV's "Lost" and director of 2009's "Star Trek" movie, has been pegged to direct the sev-

10 finalists named for international Booker prize

JAIPUR, India (AP)—American author Marilynne Robinson, Israel's Aharon Appelfeld and China's Yan Lianke are among 10 finalists for the Man Booker International Prize for fiction.

The award, an offshoot of Britain's better-known Man Booker novel-of-the-year prize, is awarded for a lifetime's work. It is open to authors of all nationalities whose work is available in English.

Prize organizers said both China's Yan and Russian finalist Vladimir Sorokin have had books banned in their homelands.

Yan fell foul of the authorities with "Dream of Ding Village," about the AIDS crisis caused by HIV-contaminated blood, and "To Serve the People," which features a character who can be aroused only when his lover smashes images of Chairman Mao.

Sorokin, best known for "The Ice Trilogy," had his early books banned in Soviet times.

Other finalists announced Thursday at the Jaipur Literary Festival in India include Lydia Davis of the United States, Pakistan's Intizar Husain, France's Marie NDiaye and Indian writer U.R. Ananthamurthy.

Josip Novakovich—a Croatia-born Canadian writer—and Switzerland's Peter Stamm round out the list.

Academic Christopher Ricks, who chairs the judging panel, said the 10 were "astonishingly different" writers who range in age from their 40s to their 80s.

Previous winners of the 60,000-pound (\$95,000) award include Canada's Alice Munro, Nigeria's Chinua Achebe and Philip Roth of the United States.

The prize, awarded every two years, causes fierce debate and occasional controversy. In 2011, British spy writer John le Carré asked for his name to be removed from the shortlist—he said he eschewed awards—and one of the jurors resigned at the choice of Roth as winner.

This year's winner will be announced in London on May 22.

enth installment of the "Star Wars" franchise.

"J.J. is the perfect director to helm this," said Kathleen Kennedy, the movie's producer and president of Lucasfilm, which was acquired by Disney last month for \$4.06 billion.

"Beyond having such great instincts as a filmmaker, he has an intuitive understanding of this franchise. He understands the essence of the Star Wars ex-

perience," Kennedy said in the statement.

The movie will have a script from "Toy Story 3" writer Michael Arndt and a 2015 release.

Lawrence Kasdan, who wrote "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" in the original trilogy, will work as a consultant

on the new project.

Abrams has already headed the reboot of another storied space franchise, "Star Trek," for rival studio Paramount Pictures. The next installment in that series, "Star Trek: Into Darkness," is set to hit theaters May 17.

But he has long been known as a "Star Wars" devotee.



Abrams

Matt Damon 'hijacks' Jimmy Kimmel's ABC show

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Damon had his revenge.

The target of a long-running joke on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," the actor opened Thursday night's show as a kidnapper who tied Kimmel to a chair with duct tape and gagged him with his own tie.

"There's a new host in town and his initials are M.D.," Damon said. "That's right, the doctor is in."

For years, Kimmel has joked at the end of his show that he ran out of time and was unable to bring Damon on as a guest. Kimmel was the silent one Thursday, watching from the back of the stage as Damon did his job.

Damon tormented Kimmel by bringing on a succession of big-name guests. Robin Williams stopped by to finish the monologue. Ben Affleck had a walk-on role. Sheryl Crow was the bandleader and performed her new single. Nicole Kidman, Gary Oldman, Amy Adams, Reese Witherspoon and Demi Moore all crowded the talk show's couch.

"I've been waiting for this moment for a long, long time," Damon said. "This is like when I lost my virginity, except this is going to last way longer than one second."

Damon's guest hosting turn



In this Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013 photo provided by ABC, Oscar winner Matt Damon hosts "Jimmy Kimmel Live" after opening the show as a kidnapper, tying Kimmel, seated, to a chair with duct tape and gagging him with his own tie, on the set in Hollywood, Calif. Surrounding Damon and Kimmel are, standing from left, guests Andy Garcia, Amy Adams, Gary Oldman, Reese Witherspoon, Ben Affleck, Sarah Silverman and Demi Moore.

AP

came at a key time for Kimmel. ABC earlier this month moved the show to put him in direct competition with Jay Leno and David Letterman.

Thursday's special program aimed for the same fame as a

memorably lewd short film Damon made for the show a few years ago with Kimmel's then-girlfriend, Sarah Silverman. It went viral and remains probably the best-known skit in the show's history.

To twist the knife even further, Damon brought Silverman on as his final guest Thursday night, with Kimmel looking on, forlorn.

"Is there anything you'd like to say to Jimmy?" Damon asked. "No, I'm good," Silverman

replied.

Then came the sweetest revenge of all, with Damon promising to ungag Kimmel in the show's final minutes.

"Wait," he said. "I'm sorry. We're out of time."

Ian McKellen, Patrick Stewart heading to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Serious theater fans have a reason to suddenly freak out: Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart will team up on Broadway this year in two of the most iconic plays of the 20th century.

Producers announced Thursday that Stewart and McKellen will star in Harold Pinter's "No Man's Land" and Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" which will play in repertoire under the direction of Sean Mathias.

The Broadway theater, performance dates, the two supporting actors and the schedule of performances will be announced later.

Stewart and McKellen starred in a production of "Waiting for



This May 22, 2006 file photo shows actors Patrick Stewart, left, and Ian McKellen during a photo call for the film "X-Men: The Last Stand," at the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

AP

Godot" in London's West End in 2009. Prior to Broadway, they'll tackle "No Man's Land"

in an as-yet-unspecified out-of-town tryout this summer.

Mathias told The Associated Press all three men struggled to make "Waiting for Godot" as honest and realistic as possible—an approach they'll likely replicate with Pinter's play.

"What we tried to do, with so much effort, was make it real. Make them human beings, compassionate, funny, flawed and vulnerable and cocky—all the things human beings are," Mathias said. "We never wanted to make it esoteric. I'm sure this is how we will approach the Pinter as well."

Stewart, 72, and McKellen, 73, first worked together in 1977 in Tom Stoppard's "Every

Good Boy Deserves Favour." They've also starred in the "X-Men" movie franchise as Professor Xavier and Magneto.

Stewart will play Vladimir in "Waiting for Godot" and Hirst in "No Man's Land," McKellen will play Estragon in "Waiting for Godot" and Spooner in "No Man's Land."

"My main feeling is it's lovely to be back with friends and it will be lovely to be back in New York," said McKellen, who is doing a sit-com in England and next goes to Middle Earth to film scenes for "The Hobbit" franchise. "But I've got an awful lot to do in the meantime."

McKellen made his Broad-

way debut in Aleksei Arbuzov's "The Promise" in 1967 and won a Tony Award for his performance in "Amadeus" in 1981. His films include "Apt Pupil," "Gods and Monsters" and "The Lord of the Rings."

Stewart, perhaps best known as Capt. Jean-Luc Picard of "Star Trek: The Next Generation," first appeared on Broadway in Peter Brook's production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1971 and has recently been in David Mamet's "A Life in the Theatre" and "Macbeth."

Putting the Beckett and Pinter plays together in repertoire makes theatrical sense since both require four male actors and they both mine a surreal, witty vein.

Celebs now fashionable targets in hoax 911 calls

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celebrities have long contended with the occasional downsides of stardom—tabloid scandals, stalkers, box office bombs, the paparazzi. Now, add “swatting” to the list—a prank that sends police charging to the gates of stars’ homes on false reports of gunmen, hostages or other crimes in progress.

Instead of bad guys, responding officers, police dogs, helicopters and sometimes SWAT teams have found only stunned domestic and security staff unaware of any trouble—because there wasn’t any.

The recent hoax 911 calls to the homes of Tom Cruise, Justin Bieber, Ashton Kutcher, Chris Brown and other stars are leading authorities to eye some 911 calls with extra suspicion and lawmakers to call for stiffer penalties for the pranksters.

“This is a very vexing problem that needs to be fixed at the early stages,” said California State Sen. Ted Lieu, who is proposing tough consequences, including hefty fines, for those caught swatting. “If this isn’t resolved, this will result in a tragic situation.”

Swatting is the rare trend that actually didn’t start in Hollywood. Authorities in Dallas,



In this Jan. 9, 2013 file photo, US actor Tom Cruise poses for photographers during a news conference of his film “Jack Reacher” in Tokyo.

Washington state, Alabama and elsewhere have arrested teens and young men for bogus 911 calls that have drawn large po-

lice responses and in some cases, resulted in innocent people being detained by police.

The term comes from the

pranksters’ desire to have heavily armed special weapons teams dispatched to their calls. That doesn’t always happen, but the calls tie up resources ranging from dispatchers, patrol officers, helicopters, detectives and cyber-crime specialists.

The Beverly Hills Police Department estimated more than half of its emergency resources were occupied with the Cruise swatting call on Jan. 17. It was just one of a rash of calls aimed at celebrities over the next several days, including a false claim there was a domestic violence incident at Brown’s home.

“We’re getting much better at deciphering what is real and what is not,” said Steve Whitmore, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. The agency has handled calls at Bieber’s home and a former Kardashian family home.

Patrol units will check out every call but will hold off calling in the big guns until signs of an actual crime emerge, he said.

Authorities in the Los Angeles area are concerned that the high-profile calls against stars are inspiring copycats who perhaps notice the immediate attention swatting incidents command on tabloid news sites.

Los Angeles police Cmdr. Andrew Smith said the department has seen an increase in the number of swatting calls since last year, when stars such as Kutcher, Bieber and Cyrus were targeted.

“People are jumping on the bandwagon thinking it’s funny or a clever or interesting,” Smith said. The calls aren’t just tying up patrol officers, but also investigators probing the pranks who could be assigned to larger crimes.

“The last thing we want to have our detectives do is spend a bunch of time on a foolish prank like this,” he said. “We want our detective handling robberies, burglaries and other crimes.”

Police arrested a 12-year-old boy in December who is suspected of placing swatting calls at numerous homes, including Kutcher’s. That call brought out many heavily-armed offi-

cers and prompted the actor to leave the set of “Two and a Half Men” to make sure his home and workers were safe.

Prosecutors are still evaluating potential charges against the boy.

“If we catch you, and we’re going to catch you, you’re going to be prosecuted,” Smith said. “We’ve got some pretty clever detectives in this department. They’ll find out who did these things.”

There are also concerns that swatting will lead officers to treat certain 911 calls differently.

“At some point, we don’t want law enforcement to feel like this is another cry-wolf situation,” Lieu said.

Smith said that’s a possibility, but he said officers are being told to treat all 911 calls with caution, even if they know they’re traveling to a celebrity’s home and the call has the traits of a prank.

SAG honoree Dick Van Dyke glad he made someone smile

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Forget dishonest modesty. Dick Van Dyke seems nothing short of gobsmacked about receiving the life-achievement honor at Sunday’s Screen Actors Guild Awards.

“They must’ve gotten to the ‘V’s,” he joked.

Though probably best known for “The Dick Van Dyke Show” (1961-66) and Walt Disney’s big-screen musical “Mary Poppins” (1964), the 87-year-old Van Dyke said that, with the SAG Award, “I kind of find a home. I’ve always been a bit of an orphan, because actors say, ‘Well, he’s more of a dancer.’ And dancers say, ‘No. He’s really a singer.’ And singers say, ‘No. He’s an actor.’ So, now I’ve got a home. I can actually refer to these people as my peers.”

His career has spanned eight decades, starting with work as a disc jockey

and a standup comic in the late ‘40s. He even worked as a national television morning-show host, with no less than Walter Cronkite serving as his news anchor. But perhaps Van Dyke’s most critical career break came in 1960, when director Gower Champion hired him as the male lead opposite Chita Rivera in the new Broadway-bound stage musical “Bye Bye Birdie.”

Van Dyke had no professional dance experience, and out-of-town tryouts did not go well. “They were going to fire me in Philadelphia,” Van Dyke recalled during a recent interview at the Screen Actors Guild headquarters. “I was still nervous and tight.”

Nevertheless, Champion refused to terminate Van Dyke, who would go on to New York

with Rivera, and win a Tony award for his performance.

Just about a year later, Van Dyke was starring on his own sitcom, in the role of a television-comedy writer on “The Dick Van Dyke Show.” Three prime-time Emmys for Van Dyke and more than 50 years later, the series remains revered by many critics as one of the earliest models of great workplace comedy.

“That whole show was the genius of (show creator and writer) Carl Reiner, who said he wrote Jewish comedy for gentle actors,” Van Dyke said.

During the series’ run, Van Dyke also enjoyed big-screen

hits, including the 1963 “Birdie” movie and the 1964 all-star comedy, “What a Way to Go!” But biggest of all was “Mary Poppins,” in which he introduced the Oscar-winning song “Chim Chim Cher-

ee,” but for which he also took, and still takes, serious ribbing, even from his leading lady and longtime pal Julie Andrews.

“She still kids me about my so-called Cockney accent,” Van Dyke said, adding a line of defense: “I had an Irish coach ... so he wasn’t any better than me.”

The first sitcom and “Poppins” are likely to be his most enduring works, but Van Dyke has never stopped working, with other TV series (including a short-lived 1976 variety show, “Van Dyke and Company,” which earned him a fourth prime-time Emmy), stage appearances and films. “My favorite unknown movie is ‘The Comic,’” Van Dyke said, referring to the 1969 drama, which reunited him with “Van Dyke Show”’s Reiner, who directed.



Van Dyke

‘Fruitvale,’ ‘Blood Brother’ win Sundance Awards

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—The dramatic film “Fruitvale” and the documentary “Blood Brother” won over audiences and Sundance Film Festival judges.

Both American films won audience awards and grand jury prizes Saturday at the Sundance Awards.

“Fruitvale” is based on the true story of Oscar Grant, who was 22 years old when he was shot and killed in a public transit station in Oakland, Calif. First-time filmmaker Ryan Coogler wrote and directed the

dramatic narrative.

“This project was about humanity, about human beings and how we treat each other; how we treat the people that we love the most, and how we treat the people that we don’t know,” the 26-year-old said as he accepted the final prize of the night. “To get this award means that it had a profound impact on the audience that saw it, on the people that were responsible for picking it up. And this goes back to my home, to the Bay Area, where

Oscar Grant lived, breathed, slept, loved, fought, had fun, and survived for 22 years.”

Fox Searchlight founder and Sundance juror Tom Rothman said “Fruitvale” was recognized for “its skillful realization, its devastating emotional impact and its moral and social urgency—and for anyone out there who thinks for one second that movies don’t matter and can’t make a difference in the world.”

“This will not be the last time you guys walk to a podium,” he added.

It fans the flames of an attack against Iran,” he said.

A DreamWorks spokeswoman declined to comment on Assange’s claims.

In a telephone interview late Friday, Assange said that the film’s plot revolves around a fictional mole in Iran’s nuclear program who discovers that the country has nearly finished building an atom bomb and will soon be in a position to load it onto bal-

listic missiles. The film has the informant fleeing to Iraq when WikiLeaks publishes his name among its massive trove of classified material.

Assange says the whole story is “a lie built on a lie,” claiming that the U.S. intelligence community generally believes that Iran stopped comprehensive secret work on develop-

ing nuclear arms in 2003, and that, in any case, the world had yet to see evidence of a case in which WikiLeaks had exposed a CIA informant.

“They tried to frame Iran as having an active nuclear weapons program. Then they try to frame WikiLeaks as the reason why that’s not known to the public now,” Assange said, comparing the movie to Kathryn Bigelow’s “Zero Dark Thirty,” another film whose artistic liberties with recent history have drawn allegations of political bias.

Assange declined to say where he got the script, although he hinted that he had been supplied with several copies of it over time. He also declined to say whether the script would be posted to the WikiLeaks website, saying



Assange

Assange: WikiLeaks film script leaked to WikiLeaks

LONDON (AP)—If you’re making a movie about WikiLeaks, this is the kind of thing you probably see coming.

Julian Assange says he has obtained a leaked copy of the script for “The Fifth Estate,” a DreamWorks film about the maverick computer expert and his famed secret-busting site. In a speech before the Oxford Union debating society earlier this week, Assange said his unauthorized sneak peek has left him convinced the film is a hit piece.

“It is a mass propaganda attack against WikiLeaks, the organization (and) the character of my staff,” he said, adding that the movie—the opening scenes of which Assange described as taking place in Tehran and Cairo—also hyped Western fears over the Islamic Republic’s disputed atomic energy program.

“It is not just an attack against us, it is an attack against Iran.

Fox News and Palin cutting ties

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel is parting ways with former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, ending her three-year tenure as a contributor on the network.

While Palin's time at Fox was occasionally rocky, the network's news executive, Bill Shine, said Friday that "we have thoroughly enjoyed our association" with her.

"We wish her the best in her future endeavors," said Shine, Fox's executive vice president for programming.

A person familiar with discussions between Fox and Palin described the parting as amicable, saying that Fox and Palin had discussed renewing her contract but she decided to do other things. The person spoke on condition of anonymity be-



In this Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 file photo provided by Fox News, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin talks on Fox News Sunday in Washington.

cause they were not authorized to speak on the record.

Palin's lawyer in Alaska, John Tiemessen, had no immediate comment on her exit. Palin's last appearance on Fox News was Dec. 19 on Greta Van Susteren's show.

Palin signed to deliver commentary on Fox in January 2010, reportedly for \$1 million a year. It was a coup for both sides at the time; the former Alaska governor was a little more than a year removed from her attention-getting run for the vice presidency and was considered one of the leading contenders for the 2012 presidential nomination. At Fox, she had a platform on the most popular network for conservative viewers. Fox installed equipment in Palin's Wasilla, Alaska, home to make her regular appearances easier.

But there were some indications of tension between her and Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes, who was quoted in a 2011 story by The Associated Press saying, "I hired Sarah Palin because she was hot and got ratings."

When Palin announced she would not be a candidate in 2012, she said it on a conservative radio show, which didn't sit well with the company paying her to be a contributor. Palin took to her Facebook page late last summer to complain that Fox had cancelled her appearances one night at the GOP national convention; Fox said it was simply because the GOP had to condense its speaker schedule due to a hurricane.

Mom must work to overcome hostility toward her daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Although I love my 7-year-old daughter, "Emma," I do not "like" her. It's because I dislike my ex-husband, "Scott," so much. He was verbally and emotionally abusive and left me while I was pregnant. The experience left me hurt and humiliated, and I continue to harbor resentment toward him.

I'm happily remarried now, but Emma is a constant reminder of my bad marriage. I feel she's selfish, rude, lazy and disrespectful—characteristics Scott possesses. I have little tolerance for her behavior and I'm hard on her. Sometimes I feel like I'm talking to him instead of to a little girl.

I have seen several therapists, but nobody has been able to help. I have been told, "Your child isn't your ex so you need to get over it!"

Compounding the problem is the daughter I have with my second husband, a little girl I adore beyond words. She's sweet, kind, friendly and essentially the opposite of Emma. I love this child more than I love Emma, and I'm disgusted with myself for feeling this way. It was Scott who hurt me, but I can't get past the hurt. Abby, what can I do?

DISTRESSED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR DISTRESSED: Try harder to rebuild the bond you didn't form with Emma when she was born because of your anger at her father. It can still be done, but it will take work on your part. Emma's behavior may be the result of how you have treated her, and if YOU can change, so may she. I'll share with you a letter I printed several years ago from another mother who shared your problem:

"DEAR ABBY: The best advice I ever received for coping with my contrary daughter was from a neighbor who had a surly girl of her own. She made a conscientious effort to be more demonstrative to her daughter, hug her more and hold on a little tighter to show her how valued she was.

"I tried it with my daughter, going out of my way several times a day to express my love for her. It was awkward at first, but I persevered. I committed myself to loving that unlovable being, and slowly but surely it paid off. At first, she would lean away, but eventually she would ask me to hold on 'just one more minute.'

"My daughter is 24 now and on her own. Her life isn't what I would have hoped for or expected, but that's OK. I'm her touchstone for love and acceptance. I can't imagine my life without her.—ANOTHER MOM IN CALIFORNIA"

Emma may be a difficult child, but she's not stupid. She sees the difference between how you react to her half-sister and the way you treat her. A first step for you would be to apologize to her, put your arms around her and tell her that from now on you will try to do better as a mother. Emma didn't ask to be born, and you owe her that.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 10 years. We didn't have a wedding. Instead, we went to the courthouse—just the two of us with a couple of witnesses—and had a small reception a few months later.

Having been a part of some very nice weddings recently, I mentioned to my husband that I wished we would have done something more special for our wedding. Now he wants to renew our vows with a huge wedding ceremony. Would it be appropriate to have a big ceremony now?

WONDERING IN IOWA

DEAR WONDERING: I think it's a wonderful idea. Ten years of wedded bliss is something to celebrate, and I see no reason why you shouldn't do it with the ceremony of your dreams. Other couples have done it, and so can you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



SWISS CITIZEN

In this Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009 file photo, U.S. singer Tina Turner performs on stage during her concert at the Hallenstadion venue in Zurich, Switzerland. Tina Turner is on her way to becoming a Swiss citizen. The American rock diva has lived in the Zurich suburb of Kuesnacht since the mid-1990s. The local Zuerichsee-Zeitung newspaper said on its website the local council announced its decision to grant the 73-year-old Turner citizenship in an official notice published in the Friday, Jan. 25, 2012 edition. The decision still requires formal approval from cantonal (state) and federal authorities.

Stevie Wonder to perform Super Bowl weekend

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Stevie Wonder is the latest in a parade of entertainers that will perform in New Orleans Super Bowl weekend.

Queen Fabiola annuls foundation seen as tax dodge

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgium's Queen Fabiola won't set up an inheritance foundation that was widely criticized as a dodge to shield some of her fortune from the tax man.

Two weeks after she was rebuked by Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo, the 84-year-old widow of former King Baudouin announced her decision Friday and apologized that it had created "such negative reactions."

The government had called the queen's plan to create a private fund to deal with her inheritance ethically flawed even if it was strictly legal.

Fabiola, who is childless, insisted that none of the money granted to her by the government—almost €1.5 million (\$2 million) a year—would have been used in the new fund, which would only include her private money.

The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame singer is headlining an outdoor concert near the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel on Feb. 2, the evening before the big football game.

A spokeswoman for the event said Friday that Bud Light is

sponsoring the concert. It will include performances by Texas blues guitarist Gary Clark Jr. and others.

Also that night, Justin Timberlake is appearing in his first concert in more than four years during "DIRECTV Super Sat-

urday Night," an invitation-only concert being held after DIRECTV's "Celebrity Beach Bowl" that will include a performance by Miami rapper Pitbull and a friendly game that will include rapper Snoop Dogg and actor Neil Patrick Harris.

Obama, Hillary Clinton to give joint interview

NEW YORK (AP)—The White House says President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will give their first joint interview to the television news show "60 Minutes," and it will

air Sunday.

Clinton is soon to leave her post as secretary of state, and already she is being mentioned as a possible presidential candidate for 2016.

Obama and Clinton competed

for the Democratic nomination for president in 2008, and their relationship has been watched closely ever since.

It's not clear what questions the two will face in their joint interview.

Canada denies Randy Quaid's request to stay

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian immigration officials have denied U.S. actor Randy Quaid's request for permanent resident status in Canada.

A Canadian government official confirmed late Saturday his request for permanent status has been denied. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Quaid can appeal the decision to the federal court.

U.S. officials last year refused to seek extradition of the actor and his wife from Canada to

face felony vandalism charges in Santa Barbara, California, but authorities in the coastal town say they'll still have the couple arrested if they return to the states.

Quaid has sought to stay in Canada, claiming he was being hunted by "Hollywood star-whackers" who had killed his friends David Carradine and Heath Ledger.

Quaid's trouble began in 2010 when he and his wife were

arrested for causing more than \$5,000 damage at a hillside home they were renting.

Randy Quaid is the older brother of actor Dennis Quaid and is best-known for his roles in films such as "National Lampoon's Vacation" and "Independence Day." He won a

Golden Globe award for his depiction of President Lyndon Johnson in a TV movie in the late 1980s.



Quaid

Parker powers Spurs past Suns, 108-99



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker had 31 points and the San Antonio Spurs earned their eighth consecutive win by shutting down the Phoenix Suns in the final quarter for a 108-99 victory on Saturday night.

Manu Ginobili added 20 points, Tiago Splitter had 13, and Boris Diaw finished with 11 for San Antonio (36-11), which has won 16 in a row at home.

The Spurs were without Tim Duncan (sore knee) and coach Gregg Popovich (illness) for a third consecutive game.

Michael Beasley had 25 points and Jared Dudley scored 23 for the Suns (15-29), who lost for the first time since coach Lindsey Hunter took over.

Parker had 11 points and five assists as San Antonio outscored Phoenix 27-17 in the fourth, forcing six turnovers in the period.

Trail Blazers 101, Clippers 100

In Portland, Ore., Nicolas Batum had 20 points, 10 rebounds and a career-high 12 assists for his second triple-double in a week, and the Trail Blazers handed the Clippers their fourth straight loss.

The Clippers, playing without guard Chris Paul for the third straight game because of a bruised right kneecap, trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half but reclaimed the lead in the fourth quarter.

They held off the Blazers until Wesley Matthews got Portland within one with a layup and free throw. J.J. Hickson made a pair of foul shots to get the lead back for the Blazers with 45 seconds to go and Jamal Crawford missed a 19-foot jumper for the Clippers with 0.9 seconds left for the final margin.

Blake Griffin had 24 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for Los Angeles.

76ers 97, Knicks 80

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, center, of France, is caught between Phoenix Suns defenders Jared Dudley (3) and Goran Dragic (1) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas.

scored a career-high 35 points, Nick Young had 20 and the Philadelphia 76ers cruised to victory over New York.

Evan Turner also added 20 points for the Sixers, who led from the start and beat the Knicks for the first time in four tries and second in eight games.

Carmelo Anthony needed 28 shots to get 25 points. He has 28 straight 20-point games, tied with Patrick Ewing for second-longest streak in franchise history. Richie Guerin did it 29 games in a row in 1961-62.

The Atlantic Division-leading Knicks, who are second in the Eastern Conference, have lost five of eight.

Amare Stoudemire had 20 points for New York. Jason Kidd, Iman Shumpert and J.R.

Smith combined to go 0 for 17. Kidd had zero assists in 15 minutes.

Rockets 119, Nets 106

In Houston, James Harden scored 29 points, Chandler Parsons added 16 points and a career-high 11 assists and the Rockets beat the Nets for the 12th straight time.

Omer Asik had 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Rockets, who outrebounded the Nets 50-31 and outscored Brooklyn 60-24 in the paint.

Nets star Deron Williams scored 27 points, but cooled off after a 20-point first quarter. He was ejected with 1:07 left after arguing a call with referee David Jones. Brook Lopez scored 21 points and Joe Johnson added 13 for Brooklyn.

Jeremy Lin had 14 points, nine assists and six turnovers for Houston.

Cavaliers 99, Raptors 98

In Toronto, Kyrie Irving made a 3-pointer with 0.7 seconds left to lift Cleveland to its third consecutive victory.

Headed to his first All-Star game, Irving added to his credentials by calmly draining a pull-up jumper from the top of the arc to give him 32 points on the night. Marreese Speights had 17 for the Cavaliers, and Tristan Thompson scored 14.

Toronto had five players score in double figures. Amir Johnson had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Alan Anderson scored 17 and Ed Davis finished with 16.

The Raptors had won seven of their previous nine meetings with the Cavaliers.

Wizards 86, Bulls 73

In Washington, Emeka Okafor had 15 points and 16 rebounds, helping the Wizards to another victory.

John Wall and Nene each scored 16 points for Washington, which has won consecutive games for the second time this season. The Wizards have won five straight at home for the first time in five years, and seven of 10 overall.

It's a marked improvement from the start of the season, when Washington (11-31) dropped 28 of its first 32 games.

Chicago had won a season-high three in a row for the third time. Nate Robinson scored 19 points for the Bulls, and Joakim Noah narrowly missed a triple-double with nine points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists, which equaled his career high.

Jazz 114, Pacers 110, OT

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 25 points and Paul Millsap had 21, leading Utah to the overtime win.

Utah scored the first six points

in the extra session after blowing a 97-89 lead with 2:44 left in regulation. Gordon Hayward coughed up three turnovers to Indiana's George Hill in the final minute of the fourth.

Paul George scored 24 points, David West added 23 and Hill had 22 for Indiana (26-18), which lost for the third time in four road games. The Pacers outrebounded the Jazz 41-28.

Hayward scored 15 points, but had the ball stolen from him three times on the final three possessions for Utah in regulation.

Bobcats 102, Timberwolves 101

In Charlotte, N.C., Gerald Henderson made a 3-pointer with 4.6 seconds left, helping Charlotte snap a 16-game home losing streak.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 25 points and Ramon Sessions finished with 23 as the Bobcats won at home for the first time since Nov. 21. The home slide was two short of the NBA record held by the 1993-94 Dallas Mavericks.

Henderson finished with 15 points and Bismack Biyombo had 10 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte.

Luke Ridnour had 22 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Minnesota, which has lost nine of 10.

Nuggets 121, Kings 93

In Denver, Ty Lawson scored 26 points, Andre Iguodala had



NFL BRIEFS

In New Orleans, an unwelcome mat for Goodell

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans Saints fans are celebrating the return of coach Sean Payton from his suspension following last year's "bountygate" scandal. But NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who will present the NFL championship trophy when the Super Bowl is played in New Orleans on Feb. 3, is getting a less-than-warm welcome in some quarters. Some hold a grudge over the suspension of Payton and key players and coaches. Signs saying Goodell won't be served are posted at some bars and eateries. And Goodell's image adorns the dart board at one lounge. Mayor Mitch Landrieu is among city leaders reminding residents to mind their manners. Landrieu says Goodell played a big part in keeping the Saints in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and in bringing the Super Bowl back to the city.

Charges won't be filed against 49ers' Crabtree

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Criminal charges won't be filed against 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree after an alleged sexual assault in a hotel

20 and Denver used a strong first three quarters to rout Sacramento.

Danilo Gallinari added 14 points for the Nuggets, who led 71-49 at intermission to set a season high for points in a half. They shot 62 percent in the first two quarters and had three players in double figures.

They led by as many as 35 in the second half and were up 101-69 heading into the fourth period when most of the regular players watched the rest of the game.

Aaron Brooks scored 16 points and Tyreke Evans had 15 for the Kings, who have lost four straight. DeMarcus Cousins was held to three points. It's the first time in his past 17 games he failed to score in double figures.

Bucks 109, Warriors 102

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 20 points to push the Bucks to the win.

Milwaukee's Monta Ellis also had 20 points against his former team, while Ersan Ilyasova added 18 points and 12 rebounds. Larry Sanders added 16 points and 11 boards.

Stephen Curry led Golden State with 26 points. Klay Thompson added 19, and David Lee had 12 points and 15 rebounds.

Golden State has lost four consecutive games in Milwaukee and hasn't won a game at the Bradley Center since 2008.

after the team's playoff victory over the Green Bay Packers, San Francisco's district attorney said Friday. After examining information submitted by police, District Attorney George Gascon said his office determined that no charges would be filed "at this time." "The San Francisco Police Department-Special Victims Unit completed and submitted a thorough investigation of the allegations against Michael Crabtree," Gascon said. Crabtree's attorney, Joshua Bentley, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment. San Francisco police said Crabtree was never detained or arrested in the matter, and that he cooperated fully with their investigation. The 49ers are preparing to meet the Baltimore Ravens in the Super Bowl on Feb. 3 in New Orleans. 49ers general manager Trent Baalke said the team was pleased that the district attorney decided to not file charges after reviewing the matter. "Michael and the team can now put this behind us and move forward," Baalke said in a statement. During the regular season, Crabtree became the first San Francisco wide receiver with more than 1,000 yards in a season since Terrell Owens in 2003.

Ravens hold final practice before heading south



OWINGS MILLS, Md.

(AP)—The music blared in the Baltimore Ravens locker room Saturday as the players threw their football gear into black duffel bags lying in front of their cubicles.

Next stop, New Orleans.

After one final practice at their own training facility, the Super Bowl-bound Ravens will take Sunday off before heading for the Big Easy on Monday afternoon in anticipation of their matchup on Feb. 3 against the San Francisco 49ers.

"We're right where we want to be," wide receiver Torrey Smith said. "Now we have an opportunity to play in the big one. But at the end of the day, we're still getting ready for a

football game."

Coach John Harbaugh conducted practice from Thursday through Saturday as if it was a normal work week. They went hard on Thursday and Friday and eased up Saturday.

"We've had a great week. We had an excellent practice," Harbaugh said after the closed two-hour session. "The guys are very sharp and they're excited. We'll have to go down there and do just as well (or) do better."

The next time the Ravens hit the practice field, it will be in New Orleans. This week, at least, there were no distractions.

"I think it's always important to have a good practice no matter what," Harbaugh said. "You've got to practice well to play well. You pretty much play the way you practice. That's

something that we learned when we were kids and that's not going to change."

It was final practice at the team's training complex for Ray Lewis, who intends to retire after the Super Bowl. Center Matt Birk has made no such announcement, but there is a possibility the 36-year-old is also preparing for his last game.

"I don't think like that," Birk said. "I just try to live in the moment. That's just kind of my mindset. I don't think about the future or if this could be it. It drives my wife nuts, but that's just not how I operate."

Now in his 15th NFL season—the fourth with Baltimore—Birk's knees are scarred from several operations and he had surgery during the offseason to repair varicose veins in

Fog delays 3rd round at Torrey Pines



SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods is going to have to wait to pursue another win at Torrey Pines.

A thick fog shrouded the course along the Pacific bluffs on Saturday and essentially wiped out the entire day at the Farmers Insurance Open. Woods, a six-time winner of this tournament, had a two-shot lead and never even bothered coming to the golf course. Three players completed one hole—and that was after a three-hour delay.

Players were to resume the third round Sunday morning and go as long as daylight allowed, and then finish Monday.

And that's a best-case scenario.

In a bizarre twist, tour officials were hopeful of rain and a little wind Sunday morning, two elements that most golfers dread. That's what is needed, however, to keep the fog away from Torrey Pines and allow the tournament to resume.

"When Mother Nature doesn't want you to play, you can't play," said Mark Russell, the tour vice president of competition.

They did just about everything else.

Lucas Glover warmed up three times, at one point passed the time with a little trickery. He lined up two balls in the direction of the range, and hit them with a wedge so that one ball went straight in the air, and Jerry Kelly took a baseball swing with an inverted club and made contact.

Through four tournaments this year, the PGA Tour already had had its share of weather problems. This will be the second tournament that doesn't finish on the scheduled day. The Tournament of Champions at Kapalua didn't even start until Monday, the day it was supposed to end, because of 40 mph gusts. It had to be reduced to 54 holes and was completed on Tuesday.

Woods was at 11-under 133 and didn't need to come to the course with all the delays because he was in the last group with Billy Horschel and Casey Wittenberg. Horschel spent part of his day getting advice through text messages on how to play with Woods.

He'll get to see plenty of Woods over the next two days.

Russell said there would not be a 54-hole cut for 87 players—typically there is a cut when the field is more than 78 players on Saturday. Instead, they will take a short lunch break and go back out, racing time when fog allows. The groups will stay the same until the tournament is over.

"I think the coolest thing that can come from it is that I think it looks like we're going to be paired together for 36 holes,"

Tiger Woods picks up his ball after finishing his round on the north course at Torrey Pines Golf Course during the second round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, in San Diego.

AP



Horschel said. "So it's a pretty cool thing that's going to happen. It's just going to be a fun day tomorrow and Monday. So we'll see how it goes."

Horschel also is among 17 players who are entered in the qualifier Monday to get into the Phoenix Open, which starts next week. Russell said those players have been given the latest tee times for the qualifier—the latest is 1:36 p.m. MST—with hopes of getting there.

Saturday began with a 30-minute delay that soon stretched into three hours, and the sun broke through the clouds as Hunter Mahan, Robert Garrigus and John Mallinger teed off on the 10th hole at the South Course. Five minutes later, the horn sounded. Because it was for weather, they were able to finish the hole.

Mahan's caddie took a picture of the 11th tee, a 216-yard par 3, and the visibility was no more than 50 yards.

It never got any better.

"That little bit of sun we did get today was overpowered by just the saturation of the atmosphere, so we just couldn't overcome it today," said Stewart Williams, the tour's meteorologist.

Defending champion Brandt Snedeker, seven shots out of the lead, was among those who had the longest day. He was up at 5 a.m., arrived in darkness, warmed up in the fog and never hit a shot.

"It's tough when you prepare one day, and then it's one of those days where preparation is going to be kind of thrown off," he said. "But we have these days from time to time. We kind of know what to do to keep your mind fresh and ready to go. You realize it's a different week, and could be a Monday finish now and be ready for that."

Yanks GM: Possible A-Rod could miss entire season



NEW YORK

(AP)—Yankees general manager Brian Cashman says it's possible third baseman Alex Rodriguez could miss the entire season while recovering from hip surgery.

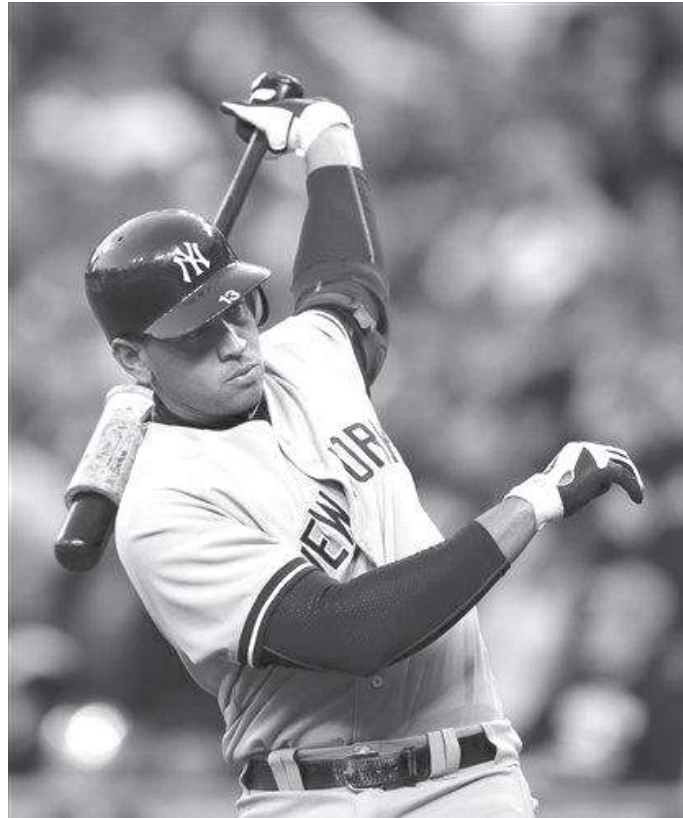
Cashman says "there's no guarantees in this stuff" that Rodriguez will be able to play this year.

The 37-year-old Rodriguez had surgery on his left hip last week. The team said the rehabilitation time was expected to be six months, which would sideline the star slugger until the All-Star break.

On Friday, Cashman said it was possible A-Rod could be out all year.

"Yeah," Cashman told WFAN radio. "I think because (of) the serious nature of the surgery and the condition that he's trying to recover from, you know, there is that chance."

"I can't say it's not possible that he won't be back," he said.



In this Oct. 18, 2012, file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez prepares to hit in the sixth inning during Game 4 of the American League championship series against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit.

Woods won in 2005 at Torrey Pines when fog interrupted the tournament, though it was completed on Sunday. The last time this event was shortened to 54 holes because of weather was in 1998.

Russell said the Farmers Insurance Open will go 72 holes. He just couldn't promise when 84 players could get to the 37th hole of the tournament. Without rain, there was the chance of more fog Sunday morning.

"If we say we're not going to play because we might have fog in the morning, and we didn't have fog, we'd have tremendous problems," he said. "So we're going to schedule it, and hopefully, we won't have fog and we can play golf. That's all we can do. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, we don't have very much control over that. We're going to be out here, ready to play, and see what happens."

That's assuming they can see at all.

The Yankees signed free agent Kevin Youkilis during the offseason to play third base while Rodriguez is out.

Cashman said Rodriguez is doing everything "in his power to put himself in the position to get back and be healthy and productive."

"Best case scenario, yeah he should be back," Cashman said. "Worst case scenario, he won't be back, or there might be something in between."

A 14-time All-Star, Rodriguez hit .272 with 18 home runs and 57 RBIs in 122 games last year. The three-time AL MVP was benched in three of nine postseason games and pinch hit for in three others, batting just .120 (3 for 25) with no RBIs in the playoffs.

Rodriguez had surgery on Jan. 16 to repair a torn labrum and reshape a bone to alleviate an impingement. He has 647 career homers and is due \$114 million over the next five years as part of his record \$275 million, 10-year contract.

Thomas: No sympathy for steroids-tainted stars

CHICAGO (AP)—Retired Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas feels even better about his career after watching steroids-tainted stars Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Roger Clemens fail to gain entry to the Hall of Fame.

"I think I've done enough to be a first-ballot Hall of Famer," he said Saturday at the team's fan convention.

"Watching all the nonsense unfold and not really knowing what was going on, it makes me much more proud of my career," he said. "I competed in that era. I played at a high level in that era. There are a lot of

great players, but as it unfolds, a lot of it was not the real deal. I know 100 percent I was the real deal."

Bonds, Sosa and Clemens were denied in their first year of eligibility amid suspicions by some voters that their accomplishments were boosted by performance-enhancing drugs. Mark McGwire, 10th on the career home run list, received 16.9 percent of the vote on his seventh try, far short of the 75 percent needed for election.

"I wouldn't say I feel bad for them," Thomas said. "I respected them on the field, but they chose this. They made their

own decisions off the field and they've got to live with it."

He said their numbers were "incredible" but "fake."

"Any time you look at the PED situation, you look at the Lance Armstrong situation—you look at stuff like that, it's serious out there," Thomas said. "Thank God I'm blessed I did it the right way. I had a good family base that made me outwork everybody else because that's the only way I made it to the big leagues."

A two-time American League MVP with a .301 average and 521 homers, will join Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine as first-

time eligible on the ballot sent to voters this autumn.

Thomas was surprised Craig Biggio did not gain election despite having 3,060 hits. Biggio appeared on 68.2 percent of the 569 ballots and fell 39 votes shy.

Thomas thinks baseball's drug-testing is on the right path. Players will be tested for human growth hormone throughout the regular season following blood testing during spring training last year. Those are in addition to urine tests.

"There won't be any more scandals. Baseball is going to be 100 percent clean," Thomas said. "They're going to have to be."

KHS varsity, Jr. Ayuyus prevail in boys caging

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Kagman High School came away winners in Friday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball varsity and junior vision pairings at the Marians High School Gymnasium.

The Varsity Ayuyus soundly defeated the Eucon International School Blazers (1-3), 71-54, while its greener—or bluer—counterparts knocked off Agape Christian School's Torchbearers (2-2), 64-54, in junior varsity play. Both Ayuyu teams bagged their second win in three games.

The season continues today at the MHS Gym with the Mount Carmel School Knights (0-2)

squaring off against the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays (2-0) at 5:45pm, preceded by the junior varsity match at 4pm, featuring SSSH (0-2) versus Saipan International School's Geckos (0-2).

The rest of the standings have the MHS' varsity (2-1) and junior varsity (3-0) Dolphins, while the freshmen division standings include MHS (2-0), KHS (1-1), SSSH (0-1).

Jason Lampkin and Jonathan Santos combined for 15 points to help give the Ayuyus an early 21-16 advantage in the first quarter.

Allen Yu started strong on the other end with 10 points for the Blazers, but KHS limited him to just a handful in the second period and jumped on the back of Lampkin who milled 11 checks

that afforded the group a 40-30 halftime margin.

The Ayuyus did not let up after intermission, but pulled away, 55-41, as Anthony Malwelbug stepped up and delivered 7 markers in the third quarter, while KHS' defense did a good job keeping Yu under wraps.

Eucon's Amos Ren tried to fill the void, but was also held to a meager 6 markers.

KHS peaked in the fourth quarter and executed a well-balanced attack at will.

The Ayuyus established a much bigger presence in the paint and the confidence that grew within the group as the game progressed pushed them over the top.

More typically an intimidating presence on defense, KHS' Lampkin came to play on both

ends in this one and led all scorers with 25 points, while Yu was humbled with 24.

In the junior varsity game, Agape's Zeyue Lin tallied 10 points to help give his Torchbearers an early 18-16 lead. However, with Lin on the bench in the second period KHS held the rest of the group to just 6 points and grinded out a 25-24 favor at the half. Melvin Sakisat led the Jr. Ayuyus through the first two cantos with 10 points.

The game remained close through the third quarter as KHS maintained a slim edge, 37-35, heading into the final 10 minutes of regulation. Justice Evangelita helped keep KHS in front with 6 points in the period.

The Jr. Ayuyus then found their second wind down the

home stretch and pulled away in the end, thanks largely to a pair of 3-pointers at the end by Andrew Salas.

The rival squads continued to battle back and forth as Agape's Lin added another 8 points in the clutch to help send it into overtime, 49-49.

KHS' Brett Halstead and Mike Muna chipped in 4 points apiece on the other end in the fourth, after which the former added another handful of markers in the bonus period to give the Jr. Ayuyus some breathing room.

Unfortunately for Agape, Lin fouled out in overtime and in the end Andrew Salas, who had been quiet all game, signed off for KHS with a pair of late 3-pointers that sealed the deal.

Melvin Sakisat led two other Jr. Ayuyus in double figures with 13, while Lin finished with a game-

high 22 in the heartbreaker.

Varsity

KHS 71 – Lampkin 25, Jo. Santos 15, Malwelbug 15, Hocog 5, Nawaz 3, Limes 2, Polino 2, A. Santos 2, Ja. Santos 2.

Eucon 54 – Yu 24, Ren 14, Li 6, Ja. Wang 5, Zhou 3, Je. Wang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 40-30, 55-41, 71-54.

Junior Varsity

KHS 64 – Sakisat 13, Halstead 11, Taitano 10, Muna 7, Mafnas 6, Evangelista 6, Salas 6, Retan 3, Racadio 2.

Agape 54 – Lin 22, Yang 9, Puno 8, Me. Li 6, Mi. Li 4, Huang 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-18, 25-24, 37-35, 49-49, 64-54 (OT).

AZARENKA

From Page 28

23-year-old Belarusian said. "I had to stay calm. I had to stay positive. I just had to deal with the things that came onto me."

There were a lot of those things squeezed into the 2-hour, 40-minute match. Li, who was playing her second Australian Open final in three years, twisted her ankle and tumbled to the court in the second and third sets.

The second time was on the point immediately after a 10-minute delay for the Australia Day fireworks—a familiar

fixture in downtown Melbourne on Jan. 26, but not usually coinciding with a final.

Li had been sitting in her chair during the break, while Azarenka jogged and swung her racket around before leaving the court to rub some liniment into her legs to keep warm.

The 30-year-old Chinese player had tumbled to the court after twisting her left ankle and had it taped after falling in the fifth game of the second set. Immediately after the fireworks ceased, and with smoke still in the air, she twisted the ankle again, fell and hit the back of her head on the hard court.

The 2011 French Open cham-

pion was treated immediately by a tournament doctor and assessed for a concussion in another medical timeout before resuming the match.

"I think I was a little bit worried when I was falling," Li said, in her humorous, self-deprecating fashion. "Because two seconds I couldn't really see anything. It was totally black."

"So when the physio come, she was like, 'Focus on my finger.' I was laughing. I was thinking, 'This is tennis court, not like hospital.'"

Li's injury was obvious and attracted even more support for her from the 15,000-strong crowd.

Azarenka had generated some bad PR by taking a medical timeout after wasting five match points on her own serve in her semifinal win over American teenager Sloane Stephens on Thursday. She came back after the break and finished off Stephens in the next game, later telling an on-court interviewer that she "almost did the choke of the year."

She was accused of gamesmanship and manipulating the rules to get time to regain her composure against Stephens, but defended herself by saying she actually was having difficulty breathing because of a rib injury that needed to be fixed.

That explanation didn't convince everybody. So when she walked onto Rod Laver Arena on Saturday, there were some people who booed, and others who heckled her or mimicked the distinctive hooting sound she makes when she hits the ball.

"Unfortunately, you have to go through some rough patches to achieve great things," she said. "That's what makes it so special for me. I went through that, and I'm still able to kiss that beautiful trophy."

She didn't hold a grudge. "I was expecting way worse, to be honest. What can you do? You just have to go out there

and try to play tennis in the end of the day," she said. "It's a tennis match, tennis battle, final of the Australian Open. I was there to play that."

"The things what happened in the past, I did the best thing I could to explain, and it was left behind me already."

The match contained plenty of nervy moments and tension, and 16 service breaks - nine for Li. But it also produced plenty of winners and bravery on big points.

Azarenka will retain the No. 1 ranking she's mostly held since her first Grand Slam win in Melbourne last year.

BLUE HAUS

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bay in the third period and maintained control, 59-51, heading into the final stanza. Sutton, Elmer Esdreton, and Brendon Talanaia provided Blue Haus' offense in the exchange.

OCM did its best to muster a comeback, but Blue Haus always had an answer on the other end and played a clean, smart game all the way to the end.

Sutton canned four of his team's five free throws late in the match to secure the victory.

He finished with a game-high 23 points, while OCM's Lisua turned in 20 on the short end.

In the second match, NMC Proa jumped out to an early

17-9 edge in the first quarter as Lerio Pagarao broke loose out of the gate for 7 points.

He then led a mixed bag through the second period with another 6 markers as NMC Proa maintained its previous margin of 8 points, 41-33, at intermission.

KFC/Taco Bell's Bryle Alegre, Kae Bernrdo, Jawn Joyner, and Nevin Salem all chipped in a handful of checks in the first half.

KFC/Taco Bell regrouped at the pause and postured a comeback in the third quarter as NMC Proa found itself in foul trouble early in the match.

The squad also benefited from four 3-pointers in clawing back to within a possession heading into crunch time, 54-57. Two of the treys came from Joyner who

led the charge with 8 points.

Although KFC/Taco Bell fought its tail off for three quarters of the game, the team eventually wore down midway through the final period and NMC Proa ended up more or less walking off with the win.

Despite the dull ending, KFC/Taco Bell did a good job not letting NMC Proa's best player, Jack Lizama, from taking over the match. They, however, didn't have an answer for Pagarao and Ivan Devero who teamed up for 41 points in the game.

Pagarao's 24 topped the box score, while KFC/Taco Bell's Jaymark De Guzman earned the nod off the bench with 16.

First Game

Blue Haus 73 – Sutton

23, Talania 13, Esdreton 13, Galarse 11, Tumaquip 5, Barbo 4, Muleta 3, Guiab 1.

OCM Corp. 66 – Lisua 20, Sacramento 13, Teregeyo 12, Babauta 5, Diaz 4, Lauron 4, Clayton 2 Montes 2, Tenorio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 41-34, 59-51, 73-66.

Second Game

Lions Club/NMC Proa 86 – Pagarao 24, Devero 17, Barcinas 14, Demapan 10, Lizama 10, Ogumoro 5, Chariton 2, Libuw 2, Yabut 2.

KFC/Taco Bell 77 – De Guzman 16, Aranda 14, Joyner 14, Salem 11, Bernardo 6, Alegre 5, Bahillo 3, Manglona 3, Abuel 2, Francisco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-9, 41-33, 57-54, 86-77.

TWO

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former's immaculate mark and grab a share of the lead in the eight-team Division B.

Adobo had a 31-point explosion in the second quarter to recover from a slow start and then pulled away in the fourth with another 30-plus production.

Shane Deleon Guerrero had 9 points in the second-frame rally, while four of his teammates scored at least two baskets apiece to turn a 17-21 deficit to a 48-37 halftime advantage.

Christopher Camacho missed the first half for Adobo, but showed up in the third and canned three triples and logged 11 points in that period alone to keep the team's double-digit lead intact, 74-61, entering the final canto.

Guerrero and James Dela Cruz finished what Camacho started in the second half, nailing 10 points apiece in Adobo's 35-point eruption.

LD Prime faded away in the fourth, as only Carl Aldan recorded more than one field goal for the squad in the pay-off canto. Aldan had 12 of LD Prime's 14 points in the fourth, while Kenneth Quemado and Lester Lapuz chipped in 2 each in the squad's third loss in as many games.

In last Friday's second match, the Sexy Boys also had to pull off a come-from-behind win to retain its perfect record.

The Sexy Boys trailed after the first canto, 11-20, as JWS played a balance offense to take early control of the match.

John Larot made in a one-point game at the break, 30-31, after scoring 8 of his game-high 14 in the second period and the Sexy Boys went on to steal the driver's seat in the third, 44-42, off Aryan Daria's basket.

It was a back-and-forth tiff in the fourth quarter, but the Sexy Boys showed poise in the end with James Sablan drilling a big trey and Dax Tinio nailing two crucial free throws to escape with the 4-point win.

SATURDAY First Game

Adobo 101– Deleon Guerrero 27, Dela Cruz 14, Saturno 14, Mamaril 11, Camacho 11, Yap 7, Alegre 6.

LD Prime 75 – Aldan 16, Lapuz 15, Esteves 15, Isip 8, Quemado 6, Fleming 5.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 48-37, 74-61, 100-75.

FRIDAY First Game

Sexy Boys 64 – Larot 14, Sablan 11, Santos 8, Tinio 8, R. Deleon Guerrero 8, Daria 6, Tangcoy 5, R. Deleon Guerrero 2, Rosario 2.

JWS 60 – Bisana 13, Diaz 11, Alejandro 8, Canoy 6, Daproza 6, Echavez 3, Saplan 3, Barrozo 2, Buenabaja 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-20, 30-31, 44-42, 64-60. (*Saipan Tribune*)

OVER 80

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and Hiroto Yanai and Kensuke Kimura sweeping the last three categories.

Goodwin finished the around 200m swim at the 4:47 mark, besting 11 other young swimmers. She was the lone swimmer to complete last weekend's shortest course under the five-minute mark, as the next two finishers (names unavailable) clocked in at 5:24 and 5:25.

In the Meek course, which was a one-lap swim with a distance of 775 meters, Ryuto Yanai prevailed against more

than 30 swimmers. The Tsunami Saipan bet submitted 12:34 to beat adult swimmer Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, who logged in 13:40. Completing the Top 5 were SSC's Rintaro Takahashi (14:47) and Rintaro Miyawaki (15:27), and Tsunami Saipan's Karen Irinaka and SSC's Conatsu Kaga, who made it to the shore at the same time (16:10).

Ryuto's elder brother, Hiroto, won the three-lap, 2,325m Tweener course with a time of 35:47, just 11 seconds ahead of runner-up and first female finisher Angel Marie Tan, who recorded 35:50. Hiroto and Tan's teammates Angel De Jesus and Miku Tammy shared third place

after clocking in at 39:53.

Other finishers in the Tweener course were Lennosuke Suzuki (42:42) and Taiga Sato (42:43), Nicky Nichols (47:47), Paul Plunkett (50:49), Daniel Calvo (50:49), Suzy Kindel (51:13), Joshua Berger (51:36), Manny Sitchon (54:54), Sean Smith (58:16), John Alrich (1:00:15), Florence Antonio (1:10:15), Michael Villagomez (1:00:58), and Jennifer Kogure (1:03:33).

For the longest race of the weekend—the 3,875m Mighty course—Kimura broke the one-hour barrier, completing the event at the 54:21 mark. Kimura's Tsunami Saipan teammates Takumi Sugie and Kaito

Yanai rounded out the Top 3 with times of 57:05 and 57:06, respectively.

Victoria Chentsova of SSC was the fourth and last swimmer to finish the longest course under the one-hour mark with her 59:41. Other finishers of the five-lap course were SSC's Kento Akimaru (1:00:15), Jeff El-Hajj (1:00:16), Ed Ewing (1:00:17), and Carol Lynn Pierce (1:13:55).

Meanwhile, SSC president Robert Torres thanked all the participants and PIC for supporting the annual event, which awarded medals to the top finisher of each race. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Weekend Sports

Surprise wins highlight week

Upset was the name of the game last weekend with lower-ranked teams prevailing against favored foes in their separate competitions.

In volleyball, first-time partners V.J. Jones and Christen Steinkuller ruled the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's 6th Annual Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament, besting the tried and tested squads on the island.

Jones and Steinkuller, who just met during pick-up games, won the championship against

2012 winners J.R. Gechig and Charnessa Lizama of Knock Them. The champion pair also went unbeaten in four elimination games, downing veteran players of the island.

In basketball, KFC/Taco Bell and OCM also stunned their favored opponents to advance to the semifinals of the 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup

KFC/Taco Bell ousted de-

throned champion Mobil in a playoff game for the fourth semis ticket, while OCM notched the third Final Four berth after slipping past KB Market.

Still in basketball, QQ Car Rental ended SSFM's three-game winning streak after escaping with a 76-75 victory in Division A of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging.

In Division 2, the Sexy Boys kicked off the competition with a 70-67 win over Chinatown, while Servitek and Adobo also pulled off close wins versus LD Prime, 64-62, and Morales, 70-69, respectively.

Over at the Marianas High School Gymnasium for the MISO caging, Saipan Southern High School also snapped the Dolphins' run in the varsity

caging after eking out a 96-86 victory. In the junior varsity and freshmen divisions, MHS remained undefeated.

For the volleyball competition, Grace Christian Academy kept its immaculate mark (6-0) in the girls division, while Saipan International School's Green Geckos (5-1) and MHS Blue Dolphins (5-2) are not far behind after earning multiple

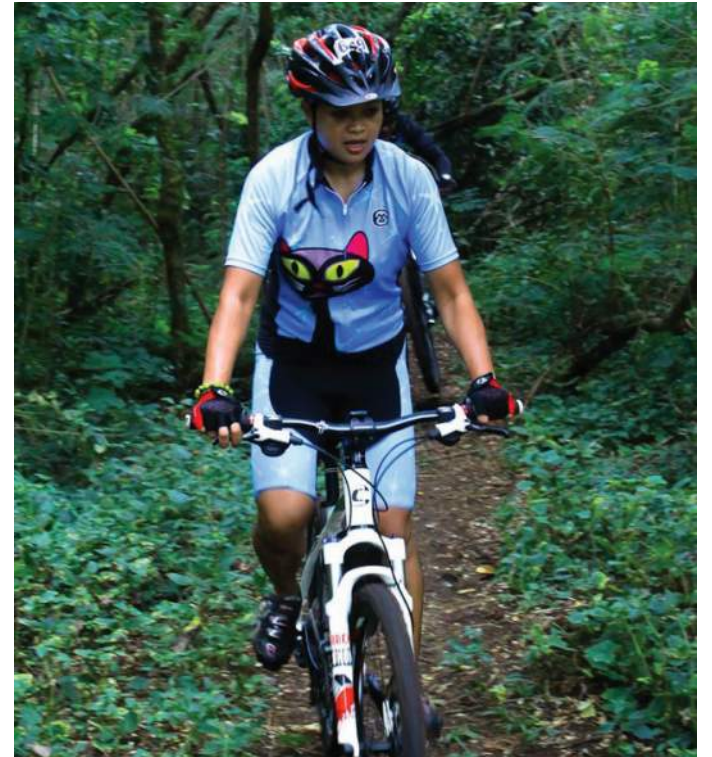
wins last week.

The Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation's Bird Island January Classic XC MTB also had tight races with winners of two divisions finishing their events less than a minute ahead of their closest pursuers.

In the men's championship course, first placer Charlin Sendin timed in at 45:05 against Erico Castro' 45:48. In the men's sports course, Jerome Diyco submitted 33:07 versus the 33:32 of Edwin Polagame. *(Saipan Tribune)*



Bikers wait for the start of Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation's Bird Island January Classic XC MTB Race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A female rider negotiates one of the trails in Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation's Bird Island January Classic XC MTB Race.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Jack Aranda pops a midrange jumper against Marianas High School's Tony Bai during their game in the MISO varsity caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Adobo's Lester Vertudez goes for a layup against a Morales defender during their game in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

KFC/Taco Bell's Kae Bernardo swats the layup of Mobil's Jun Estolas during their playoff game in the QQ Cup last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Charnessa Lizama of Knock Them goes for spike during one of the elimination games in the NMIVA grasscourt volleyball tournament on Navy Hill.



Parker powers
Spurs past
Suns, 108-99

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Fog delays
3rd round
at Torrey
Pines

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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Azarenka beats Li, defends Australian Open title



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus embraces her trophy after defeating China's Li Na in the women's final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.

AP

JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Victoria Azarenka had the bulk of the crowd against her. The fireworks were fizzling out, and when she looked over the net she saw Li Na crashing to the court and almost knocking herself out.



Considering the cascading criticism she'd encountered after her previous win, Azarenka didn't need the focus of the Australian Open final to be on another medical timeout.

So after defending her title with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory over the sixth-seeded Li in one of the most unusual finals ever at Melbourne Park, Azarenka understandably dropped her racket and cried tears of relief late Saturday night.

She heaved as she sobbed into a towel beside the court, before regaining her composure to collect the trophy.

"It isn't easy, that's for sure, but I knew what I had to do," the

See AZARENKA on Page 26

Blue Haus. Lions Club/NMC Proa arrange finals tiff

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Top seeds Blue Haus and Lions Club/NMC Proa will start their best-of-three championship series in the QQ Car Rental's 3rd Basketball Cup tonight at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The winner gets to take home \$1,000 and a off season worth of bragging rights.

Blue Haus punched its finals ticket after advancing past OCM Corporation, 73-66, in last Friday's first pairing, while NMC Proa eliminated Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, 86-77, in the second semifinal.

These teams met once before during the round-robin eliminations with Blue Haus stealing



Lion's Club/NMC Proa's Gino Libuw draws contact with KFC/Taco Bell's Jawn Joyner on his way to the hoop during their QQ caging semi-final game last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

the win, 70-67.

In addition, the tournament's awards ceremony will take place after the conclusion of Game 1.

In Friday's first match, Blue Haus worked out an early 20-18 edge in the opening 10 minutes by tallying 8 free throws that were complemented by a couple of 3-pointers.

Five of the freebies came from Bret Sutton, which led the group in the frame.

OCM's Ben Lisua sank a pair of treys in the first quarter and added another 7 points for his squad in the second, but Blue Haus' Leo Galarce obliged with two long-range strikes for 8 points that went with 6 more by Sutton as Blue Haus extended to a 41-34 advantage at halftime.

Blue Haus then kept OCM at
See BLUE HAUS on Page 26

Over 80 swimmers complete Meek & Mighty

Last Saturday's 8th SSC Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim had a big turnout with over 80 swimmers completing the races in the waters of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

According to Saipan Swim Club, 83 swimmers (more than double last year's turnout of around 40) did the four courses with SSC's Milan Goodwin topping the Minnow division and Tsunami Saipan's Ryuto
See OVER 80 on Page 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Villagomez chases his son Michael as they head to the shore to complete the 8th SSC Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club last Saturday morning.

Two in a row for Adobo, Sexy Boys



Adobo and the Sexy Boys remained undefeated in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after notching contrasting wins over the weekend at the

Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the second game last Friday, the Sexy Boys outclassed JWS, 64-60, to improve to a 2-0 record, while in last Saturday's curtain-raiser, Adobo clobbered LD Prime, 101-75, to match the
See TWO on Page 26



An Adobo player goes for a finger roll during their debut game against Morales in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE